



Mr Pete Straub  
29/10/19

Ref: DOIA 1920-0574

Dear Mr Straub

Thank you for your email on 5 October 2019 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*"In the event that it is NZ that makes first contact with an extra terrestrial intelligence, what are the protocols for that interaction?"*

We are refusing your request under section 18(g) of the OIA because the information you have requested does not exist. The New Zealand Space Agency has no policies or protocols regarding the event of first contact with extra-terrestrial intelligent life.

I would like to refer you to the Cabinet paper and Cabinet Minutes from April 2016 titled "The Scope of Space Policy and a Lead Space Agency", available on the MBIE website <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/space/our-regulatory-regime>, which outlines the scope and functions of the Space Agency.

I trust that you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Johnson  
**Manager, Space Policy and Regulatory Systems**  
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

29/10/19

