

14 August 2020

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John Luke
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Dear John Luke

I refer to your email of 5 June 2020 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"...full meeting minutes for the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control from January 2017 to now."

On 15 June 2020, we advised you that in the interests of expediting a response to you, we were enquiring if you were able to more specifically identify the information you are seeking. We further advised you that the minutes of meetings over the past three and a half years cover a number of areas, and we may be able to come back to you more quickly if you are able to indicate what aspects of the PACDAC's work you are interested in.

On 16 June 2020, you advised us:

"The recent [sic] for my request is for public transparency, I am not looking for any information in particular. I would also like to encourage you to provide the information on your website like other government agency did. Thank you."

On 3 July 2020, we advised you that we were processing your request as it is currently framed. We also advised you that, due to the necessity for further review and consultation, we needed to extend the time limit for responding to you to 14 August 2020.

We have made a decision on your request. Some portions of the documents will be withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

We will provide you with the redacted documents as soon as possible.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie-Anne Lee', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade