

3 July 2024

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

N. S. Hudson

T +64 4 439 8000  
F +64 4 472 9596

[fyi-request-26530-b9af7e6f@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26530-b9af7e6f@requests.fyi.org.nz)

OIA 29425

Tēnā koe N. S. Hudson

We refer to your email of 4 June 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Information regarding documents held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT), that contain specific keywords.*

1. *Keywords:*

- a. *"Drone" or "Drones"*
- b. *"Balloon" or "Balloons"*
- c. *"Canadian Airspace"*
- d. *"NORAD" or "North American Aerospace Defense Command"*
- e. *"Langley Airforce Base" or "Langley AFB"*

2. *Timeframe:*

- a. *Please provide a list of documents, including files, emails, memos, or any other relevant records, that SEPARATELY contain the specified keywords from the year 2019 to the present date.*

3. *Format of Information:*

- a. *I request that the information be provided in a spreadsheet format that includes the title or description of each document, along with the date of creation or receipt, and any additional metadata available.*

4. *Further Details:*

- a. *If the list of documents containing the specified keywords is extensive, I am willing to submit separate requests for each year or keyword to facilitate the processing of information."*

On 5 June 2024, we contacted you regarding the scope of your request noting that responding to your request as it is currently worded may require substantial collation and therefore, it would likely be refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.

On 5 June 2024, you refined your request to be for:

*"A list of any documentation received with content relating to "Balloon" or "Balloons", "Canadian Airspace", "NORAD" or "North American Aerospace Defense Command" From Feb 2023 to current. This is in relation to (Chinese) balloon and or Unidentified craft detection/shutdowns with or without recovery, over the Arctic, US or Canadian Airspace.*

*A list of any documentation received with content relating to "Langley Airforce Base" or "Langley AFB", "drone", "drones" From Dec 2023 to current. This is in relation to drone and or Unidentified craft flown around and or over the above mentioned Air Force Base in the state of Virginia, the United States."*

The information relevant to your request is attached. We are withholding some information, including the titles of 9 documents, under section 6(a) of the OIA, to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade