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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

3 February 2025

Henry Allard
fyi-request-29915-df3f2377@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Henry

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 29 January 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I am writing to you to request documentation relating to a Mrs Eileen Moreland, living in the Marlborough region, who was the centre of a 'UFO' sighting on 13th July 1959 and subsequent investigations. I am aware that several documents have been released via OIA in years prior, and that other files are to be withheld until 2070. However, several years have elapsed since the last release I am aware of, and I am curious as to whether any other sources on this incident have become available.

The public service and defence reforms of the late 1980s caused the redistribution of historic records. The Defence Act 1990 led to the separation of the then Ministry of Defence (the Ministry) into the two current agencies – the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and the current Ministry, which is a civilian agency responsible for the development of defence policy, international defence engagements and the delivery of major capability projects. Prior records were passed to either of the subsequent agencies, depending on the allocation of functions under the Act.

We have reached out to NZDF on this subject, which holds files relating to military operations. In 2010, the NZDF released to public libraries 15 volumes containing all accumulated correspondence then held relating to reports of unidentified aerial phenomenon or sightings/unidentified flying objects from 1952 to 2009 inclusive, suitably redacted to protect individual privacy. Copies of this information were provided to: the Dunedin Public Library; the Hamilton Public Library; the Marlborough District Libraries; the Alexander Turnbull Library; and Infofind (the Radio New Zealand library).

The Ministry does not hold any information relevant to your request, therefore, your request is declined under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mel Childs'.

Mel Childs
Deputy Secretary, Governance, People and Executive Services