



23 July 2025

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0017549-D Gray

D Gray

Email: fyi-request-31540-6f4062f9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe D Gray

Thank you for your email of 10 July 2025 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Under the Official Information Act, I request information regarding funding connections and other collaborative efforts between the New Zealand Space Agency (NZSA) with the University of Canterbury (UC), including its departments, associated academics, and other bodies.

This information request includes, but is not limited to, the quantity of funding and the names of any programs or research projects concerned.

The Space Agency does not administer any research funding or have a direct funding relationship with the University of Canterbury, therefore MBIE is refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The Space Agency does support the administration of international space research partnerships through the Catalyst Fund, which has funded several projects delivered by University of Canterbury-affiliated academics. Information about these projects, including the lead investigators are available on the MBIE website: [Funded projects | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment](#).

The Space Agency meets on an ad-hoc basis with a range of academics from different departments in the University who have research interests relevant to Space – particularly in the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science. These span a wide range of fields from atmospheric and climate science, to cosmology, sustainability, bioengineering, aerospace engineering, and geospatial and applied remote sensing. The Space Agency also engages with the University to facilitate engagement between the University and delegations from our international space agency counterparts including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA, the German Aerospace Centre DLR, and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency JAXA.



If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Johnson
Manager Space Policy and Sector Development
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE