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OIA-2026-5837

3rd July 2026

Andrew Arkins

fyi-request-34856-f85051c3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Arkins

I refer to your email of 5 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

A reassessment of the withholding in OIA-2024-5215. Both grounds relied on (s6(a) and s6(b)(i)) apply only where release "would be likely to prejudice" the relevant interest. Given that the United States is now publicly releasing UAP records of the kind previously treated as too sensitive to disclose, I ask NZDF to reassess whether release of the information withheld under OIA-2024-5215 would still be likely to prejudice those interests, and to release any part for which that threshold is no longer met.

Any communications between NZDF and United States agencies (including the Department of War, AARO, or ODN) relating to the PURSUE program, from 1 February 2026 to the present, including whether New Zealand was notified in advance, consulted, or asked to review or clear New Zealand third-party equities prior to any release.

Any UAP-related correspondence, briefings, assessments, or records created or received by NZDF from 1 December 2024 to the present.

A description or schedule of the documents withheld in full under OIA-2024-5215, including the number of documents, their dates, their classification markings, and the originating agency, without disclosure of their classified content.

As noted in the response to you of 31 August 2023, and reiterated in responses of 27 November and 10 December 2024, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has no role or responsibility relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena and is not undertaking any research or programmes, or generating data.

With respect to communications and correspondence with the United States regarding their undertakings, this information is currently the subject of an investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman. Any reassessment of the decision of 10 December 2025 will be contingent on the outcome of that investigation, and you will be informed in due course.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF