



23 July 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0855

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Tēnā koe Andrew

Official Information Act follow-up request: PMC UAP national security coordination, NSIP status, and PURSUE response

Thank you for your second Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) follow-up request on the above-named topic, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 25 June 2026. You requested:

"Thank you for your clarification of 25 June 2026. It has surfaced a defect in the search that I must ask DPMC to remedy before I decide whether to seek the Ombudsman's review.

Your response states that DPMC's searches covered the period from 12 March 2024 to 5 June 2026. My request concerns the Five Eyes Inaugural UAP Caucus Working Group held at the Pentagon on 24 May 2023, and the records connected to it. The search period you describe begins more than nine months after that event. A search that starts in March 2024 cannot, by its own scope, capture records created around a meeting held in May 2023. That includes invitations, briefings, the New Zealand contribution or update, and any reporting or correspondence from that period.

The basis you give for the start date does not cure the defect, and the request you rely on makes the problem worse. You point to the earlier request OIA-2023/24-0650, received on 12 March 2024, as having covered the prior period. That request was a broad topic request covering UAP matters from 2010 onward. It did not reference the 24 May 2023 caucus, and it did not use the specific terms I have provided, including Five Eyes UAP Caucus, FVEY UAP, AARO, and PURSUE. It was refused under section 18(e), on the basis that the information does not exist or cannot be found. We now know, from United States records and from the New Zealand Defence Force's written confirmation, that the caucus occurred and that a New Zealand representative attended. A prior null result on the same subject, produced by a less specific search, cannot demonstrate that the present search was adequate. It tends to show the opposite, that the relevant records have been missed more than once. The reasonable period for this request is the period in which the relevant records would exist, which plainly includes May 2023.

I therefore ask DPMC to conduct a fresh search covering, at a minimum, 1 January 2023 to the present, using the search terms and variants set out in my correspondence of 16 June 2026, and by reference to the date 24 May 2023, across email, document-management systems, ministerial briefings, meeting records, calendar entries, internal messaging, and intelligence assessment holdings.

I also ask DPMC to confirm whether the National Assessments Bureau conducted an actual search of its holdings for that period, as distinct from confirming that it was not presently aware of relevant information. Awareness in 2026 is not a search of 2023 records.

This bears directly on DPMC's conclusion under section 18(g) that it had no grounds to believe the information is held by, or more closely connected with the functions of, another agency. In its response OIA-2024-5215, the New Zealand Defence Force confirmed in writing that a New Zealand representative attended the 24 May 2023 briefing on New Zealand's behalf, and that NZDF holds briefing information from the meeting, which it withheld under sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i). That is direct, documented confirmation that a named New Zealand agency holds relevant information. It was known to me, and raised in my correspondence, before DPMC finalised its conclusion. DPMC's position that it has no grounds to believe the information is held elsewhere cannot be reconciled with that confirmation, and it is a reason DPMC should have considered transfer under section 14 to NZDF.

If DPMC declines to search the correct period, or again locates nothing after doing so, I will seek the Ombudsman's review under section 28(3), and this exchange will form part of that complaint."

We have interpreted your request as seeking information about our responses to your previous requests concerning the Five Eyes (FVEY) Inaugural UAP Caucus Working Group meeting of 24 May 2023. DPMC's response to your earlier request, OIA-2025/26-0798, was informed by subject matter expertise and knowledge of information holdings. In your follow-up request, OIA-2025/26-0826, you identified keywords you wanted included in the scope of your request.

Keyword term search results

DPMC's National Security and Resilience Group, including the National Assessments Bureau (NAB), has undertaken keyword searches for the terms you specified in OIA-2025/26-0826 for the period 1 January 2023 to 25 June 2026. These searches covered relevant information management systems where emails and documents are stored. No information was identified that related to the 24 May 2023 meeting, UAP as a national security priority, or the other matters raised in your requests.

As an example of the types of information returned by searches, the terms "UAP", "UFO", "unidentified anomalous phenomena", "unidentified aerial phenomena", "Five Eyes UAP Caucus", "FVEY UAP", and "anomalous observations" returned some documents relating to previous OIA requests we have responded on these topics. A smaller number of results related to DPMC's Strengthening Resilience to Disinformation work programme, which was delivered by the National Security Group between 2022 and 2024 and is publicly documented on the DPMC website. None of these results included information about the 24 May 2023 meeting or UAP as a national security priority and are therefore not considered to be in scope of your request.

Please note that some of DPMC's information management systems do not support case-sensitive searching. This means that an unqualified search for the string "PURSUE" would return every occurrence of the ordinary English verb "pursue" across DPMC's holdings. Given the frequency of that verb, such a search would return a very large volume of unrelated results and would not be a reliable or proportionate way to identify information relevant to your request. Searches for the full phrase "Presidential Unsealing and Reporting System for UAP Encounters" – for which "PURSUE" is the reported acronym – returned no relevant results.

For similar reasons of proportionality and accuracy, we searched for the full phrase "All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office" rather than the acronym "AARO" alone. Searching the acronym alone would have returned unrelated results, including personal names (for example, "Aaron") and other uses of the same characters in unrelated contexts. The full-phrase search returned no relevant results. We note that case-sensitive searches of NAB's holdings for the exact

strings “PURSUE” and “AARO” were also undertaken. These searches likewise returned no results relevant to your request.

Parts of your request to be refused under section 18(f)

The terms “space-domain awareness” and “air-domain awareness” are established terms in defence, aviation, maritime and space policy, and appear regularly in information held by DPMC — including by NAB — in contexts that are unrelated to your request. Searches for these two phrases returned results numbering in the thousands. Assessing each of these results for relevance would require substantial collation and manual review, and, having first considered the alternatives available under sections 18(a) and 18(b) of the Act (including whether the request could be narrowed, extended, or charged for), I am not satisfied that any of those steps would enable the request to be answered in respect of these two terms.

DPMC does not hold the content of individuals’ calendar entries or internal messaging in a central repository and does not have a tool that enables a centralised keyword search across these. To search those sources, DPMC would need to identify current and former staff who may hold relevant information, ask each person to manually search any relevant device or application, extract any potentially in-scope material, and then collate and assess that material. DPMC has considered whether extending the timeframe would enable this part of the request to be granted. Given the breadth of the sources identified and the manual work required, DPMC does not consider that an extension would enable this information to be made available without substantial collation or research.

These parts of your request are therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Information to be refused under section 18(e)

On the basis of the searches described above, DPMC has made reasonable efforts to locate information held by DPMC, including NAB, relating to the 24 May 2023 meeting or UAP as a national security priority. No relevant information has been located. To the extent your request seeks information relating to these matters, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

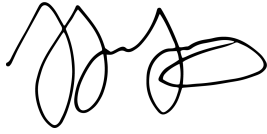
Transfer to NZDF

We have also considered your comments about transfer to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Your present request is directed to information held by DPMC and to the searches undertaken by DPMC, including NAB. We also understand you have made a separate request directly to NZDF for information relating to the 24 May 2023 meeting, and that NZDF has responded. As such, DPMC does not consider that transfer of your present request to NZDF is required.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the DPMC website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information, including your name and contact details, will be removed before publication.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Julian Grey
Acting Deputy Chief Executive
National Security and Resilience Group