

3 October 2016

Ref: PS OIA 16-231

Mr Graham Carter

Via fyi-request-4500-c3916c0a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Carter

Official Information Act request

I refer to your email dated 26 August 2016 to the Ministry of Defence (Defence) (via the website www.fyi.org.nz) in which you requested the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- How many Foreign Charter fishing vessels have been checked inside NZ EEZ over the last ten years by the RNZ Navy?
- How many Foreign Charter fishing vessels have been caught fishing illegally inside NZ EEZ over the last ten years by the RNZ Navy?
- What has been the outcome or result of these vessels that have been caught by the RNZ Navy?

On 5 September 2016, Defence transferred this part of your request to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) as the information you have requested is more closely connected with the functions of Customs. Your online request has been treated as a request for information under the Act.

The overall management and control of New Zealand's maritime surveillance is through the National Maritime Coordination Centre (NMCC). Its role is to coordinate maritime patrol and surveillance activities in support of New Zealand agencies responsible for New Zealand's sovereignty, security, safety, economy, environment or foreign policy interests. The NMCC is operationally independent, but has direct responsibility and reporting lines to Customs.

The NMCC is staffed by both civilian and military personnel. It includes liaison officers from Customs, the Ministry for Primary Industries and the New Zealand Defence Force.

The information requested would need to be collected from a number of different agencies, from a number of people who may or may not be currently employed by those agencies and may require retrieval of electronic data from computer server systems and legacy manual documentation. Therefore, your request has been refused under section 18(f) of the Act:

Section 18 Refusal of requests

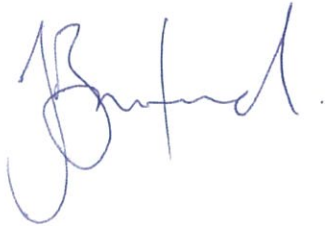
A request made in accordance with section 12 may be refused only for 1 or more of the following reasons, namely:

(f) that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research:

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of the decision to refuse your requests.

Customs is, however, happy to work with you to refine your request to a point where it would be manageable. If you would like to provide clarification, or if you have any further queries about this response, please contact the Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Servicing team via email at oiia@customs.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Bamford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jamie Bamford
Group Manager Intelligence, Investigations and Enforcement