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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2024-4993

29 April 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 17 April 2024 to Defence Science and Technology (DST) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

I recently came across information regarding the Defence Science and Technology (DST) within NZDF, and I must admit, I was intrigued. I noticed Dr. David Galligan listed as the Director on LinkedIn, and it piqued my interest in the work being done within DST.

I'm writing to inquire if the NZDF DST has any involvement or knowledge concerning Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), Unidentified Submerged Objects (USO), or Advanced Aerospace Vehicles (AAV). Recently, a document marked as "Blue Kona" was declassified, shedding light on discussions around these phenomena dating back to 2011. Additionally, there's talk of a purported event in the Hauraki Gulf in 1987 involving the HMSNZ Southland and a significant USO encounter.

It's becoming increasingly apparent that Science and Technology (S&T) play a crucial role in understanding these phenomena. With advancements in technology and our partnership within the 5EYES alliance, I'm curious to know if there have been any developments or initiatives within NZDF DST related to these areas.

Furthermore, I'd like to address the issue of classification and transparency. While I understand the need to protect sensitive information, it seems counterproductive to withhold all information regarding these phenomena. Many countries, including the United States, Russia, and China, have acknowledged the existence of such phenomena to some extent. Perhaps a balance can be struck between protecting classified technology and acknowledging the reality of these phenomena, fostering public awareness and discourse.

I also want to mention the Joint Chiefs Directive on UAP, where it's known that a representative from NZDF attended. It underscores the importance of our involvement in these discussions and initiatives.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) DST unit is not undertaking any research or programmes, or generating data, relating to *Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP)*, *Unidentified Submerged Objects (USO)*, or *Advanced Aerospace Vehicles (AAV)*. Your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

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

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF