



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5852

14th August 2026

Andrew Arkins

fyi-request-34904-da9cd20e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Arkins

I refer to your email of 16 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *information relating to New Zealand's participation in the Five Eyes Inaugural UAP Caucus Working Group held at the Pentagon on 24 May 2023*. The parts of your request are addressed below.

The position title, role, unit, service, and agency affiliation of the New Zealand representative who attended.

Details of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) representative's role and other information are withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand.

Any invitation, agenda, terms of reference, attendance list, meeting programme, briefing, speaking points, background material, presentation, or preparatory document relating to the meeting.

Briefing information provided to the NZDF is classified United States information. It is therefore withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the international relations of the Government of New Zealand and section 6(b)(i) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country. The NZDF did not produce information relevant to this part of your request.

Any notes, minutes, summaries, reports, action items, intelligence reports, assessments, or post-meeting briefings created during or following the meeting.

An internal NZDF report is withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the OIA. In summary, that report concerns the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office (ARRO) hosted inaugural FVEYs Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) meeting at the Pentagon on 24 May 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the AARO and then each agency and FVEY partners were asked to provide and update on UAP. The NZDF representative that attended the meeting advised that the NZDF does not have the remit to support UAP activities.

Any communications concerning the meeting between NZDF and the United States Department of Defense, AARO, DPMC, the Ministry of Defence, GCSB, NZSIS, MFAT, any Five Eyes partner

Communications with United States' agencies is classified and is withheld in full in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the OIA for the reasons provided above. The NZDF has not communicated with other New Zealand government agencies concerning the 24 May 2023 meeting.

Any record showing whether the New Zealand representative briefed NZDF leadership, Ministers, DPMC, the Ministry of Defence, intelligence agencies, or another New Zealand government entity following the meeting.

As noted above, the internal report prepared by the NZDF representative is withheld in full. The NZDF has not provided any briefs to ministers or other New Zealand government agencies concerning this meeting.

Any records concerning subsequent meetings, working groups, correspondence, requests for information, data-sharing arrangements, or follow-up activity arising from the Five Eyes UAP Caucus.

As the NZDF representative stated that the NZDF does not have the remit to support UAP activities, there has been no NZDF involvement in any subsequent meetings or activities.

The internal file reference, classification, record category, subject heading, or document-management location under which records relating to the meeting are held.

This information remains classified and is withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

Any records concerning the purpose of New Zealand's attendance, including whether participation related to aviation safety, air-domain awareness intelligence collection foreign military systems, space-domain awareness, sensor anomalies, national security, scientific analysis.

The purpose of the 24 May 2023 meeting is stated above, and the NZDF representative advised the attendees of the NZDF position.

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



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
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Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5837

14th August 2026

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

Dear Andrew Arkins

Further to the response to you of 3 July 2026, and with respect to information regarding the 24 May 2023 meeting, a decision regarding release of relevant information has been communicated to you under reference OIA-2026-5852.

With respect to the following part of your 5 June 2026 request:

Any communications between NZDF and United States agencies (including the Department of War, AARO, or ODNI) 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.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has no role or responsibility relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP) and is not undertaking any research or programmes, or generating data. The NZDF representative at the 24 May 2023 meeting stated that the NZDF does not have the remit to support UAP activities; therefore, there is no information held by the NZDF with respect to these parts of your request and it is refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

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