

6 May 2024

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Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your email of 2 April 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *'On how many occasions since 1st October 2015 has MFAT submitted requests under the Nuclear Free Zone Act for entry of a foreign naval vessel?*
- *Please provide the MFAT submission to the PM for each request. (if this is not possible please supply details for each requesting nation, name of vessel, date of request and requested visit, and reason for visit).*
- *Which requests were granted?*
- *What was the reason for any refusal to give diplomatic clearance?'*

On 8 April 2024 you were contacted to discuss the scope of your request, and on the same day you agreed to refine your request to be for:

1. *"On how many occasions since 1st October 2015 has MFAT submitted requests under the Nuclear Free Zone Act for entry of a foreign naval vessel?"*
2. *Please supply details for each requesting nation, name of vessel, date of request*
3. *Which requests were granted?*
4. *What was the reason for any refusal to give diplomatic clearance?"*

In response to part one of your request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) has a record of 66 submissions under the Nuclear Free Zone Act.

Please refer to **Annex A** for the information in scope of part two of your request.

In response to part three of your request, I can confirm that all requests were granted. Accordingly, part four of your request is refused under section 18(e), as the information does not exist.

In anticipation of a follow up request from you for individual briefings as discussed in the Ministry's email of 8 April 2024 to you, please refer to the below for information that is currently being prepared for you and information that is already publicly available.

I understand that you have a separate OIA request addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, dated 2 April 2024 (their ref WPOIA-073), requesting the following briefings, which are also in scope of this request. Accordingly, I refer you to the Minister of Foreign Affairs' response to your request for these briefings:

- 5/12/2023 Nuclear Free Zone Act: Approval for visit by French Naval Vessel D'ENTRECASTEAUX
- 19/12/2023 Nuclear Free Zone Act: Request for visit by United States Coast Guard Cutter POLAR STAR
- 15/02/2024 Nuclear Free Zone Act Approval for Visit by British Naval Vessel - HMS TAMAR.


The request documents listed below are in scope of your request and are publicly available on the Ministry's website: <https://fyi.org.nz/request/19335-briefings-to-prime-minister-to-inform-certifying-nuclear-free-status-of-visiting-military-craft#incoming-74394>:

- Proposed visit by Indian Naval Vessel: Tabar, 2-6 July 2006
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Request for visit by Indian Naval Vessel: Ins Sumitra: 17-22 November 2016
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Request for visit by United States Navy Ship: USS Sampson: 17-23 November 2016
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Request for visit by Chinese Naval Vessel: Yan Cheng: 12-21 November 2016
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Approval for Visit by People's Liberation Army Navy Task Group, 15-19 June 2017
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Approval for Visit by Chinese Navy Training Vessel: Qi Jiguang, 26-30 October 2019
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Request for visit by Canadian Navy ship HMCS Calgary, 5-9 August 2021
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Request for visit by United States Ship Howard, 26 November – 01 December 2021
- Nuclear Free Zone Act: Request for visit by a Chinese Air Force Transport Aircraft, 8-23 June 2018.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annex A – MFAT Submissions under Nuclear Free Zone Act

Year	Date of request	Country	Vessel name
2015	21/10/2015	France	Prairial
	15/12/2015	United Kingdom	Protector
	Dec 2015	Australia	Australian Annual Ship Approval - 2016
2016	4/01/2016	France	La Glorieuse
	7/07/2016	France	La Moqueuse
	8/08/2016	France	Vendemiaire
	13/10/2016	Korea	RoKN CTTG (Cruise Training Task Group)
	17/10/2016	United States	Sampson
	13/10/2016	Singapore	Resolution
	13/10/2016	Chile	Esmeralda
	20/09/2016	China	Yuan Wang 5
	13/10/2016	Japan	Takanami
	13/10/2016	Cook Islands	Te Kukupa
	3/11/2016	Indonesia	Banda Aceh
	3/11/2016	Canada	HMCS Vancouver
	3/11/2016	Korea	Chung Buk
	9/11/2016	China	Yan Cheng
	3/11/2016	India	Sumitra
	7/11/2016	Tonga	Voea Pangai
	3/11/2016	Samoa	Nafanua
	28/11/2016	China	Zheng He
	13/12/2016	France	Vendemiaire
	Dec 2016	Australia	Australian Annual Ship Approval - 2017
2017	25/01/2017	United States	Polar Star
	11/04/2017	France	D'Entrecasteaux
	27/06/2017	France	La Glorieuse
	20/09/2017	France	D'Entrecasteaux
	6/11/2017	China	Xuelong
	10/11/2017	India	Tarini
	23/11/2017	United States	Polar Star
	6/06/2017	China	PLA(N) Frigates Henyang, Honghu, Yulin
	Dec 2017	Australia	Australian Annual Ship Approval - 2018

Year	Date of request	Country	Vessel name
2018	23/04/2018	France	La Glorieuse
	25/07/2018	France	La Moqueuse
	9/11/2018	United States	Polar Star
	28/11/2018	France	the D'Entrecasteaux
	21/12/2018	United Kingdom	Montrose
	30/11/2018	Australia	Australian Annual Ship Approval - 2019
2019	8/02/2019	France	Vendemiaire
	15/02/2019	United States	Polar Star
	10/05/2019	Chile	Esmeralda
	27/06/2019	France	La Glorieuse
	30/07/2019	France	La D'Entrecasteaux
	15/08/2019	Japan	JS Kashima and JS Inazuma
	9/10/2019	China	PLA Navy Training Vessel Qi Jiguang
	19/12/2019	France	Vendemiaire
	11/12/2019	Australia	Australian Annual Ship Approval - 2020
2020	13/01/2020	France	D'Entrecasteaux
	13/01/2020	United States	Polar Star
	20/05/2020	Chile	CNS Almirante Latorre and CNS Capitan Prat
2021	21/07/2021	Canada	HMCS Calgary
	17/11/2021	United States	Howard
	6/12/2021	United States	Polar Star
2022	26/05/2022	France	D'Entrecasteaux
	8/07/2022	France	Vendémiaire
	27/10/2022	Korea	Hansando & Daecheong
	11/11/2022	Australia	HMAS Canberra
	30/11/2022	France	D'Entrecasteaux
	19/12/2022	France	Vendémiaire
2023	01/05/2023	United Kingdom	HMS Spey
	26/06/2023	France	D'Entrecasteaux
	28/06/2023	India	Kolkata and Sahyadri
	30/12/2023	France	D'Entrecasteaux
	22/12/2023	United States	Polar Star
2024	31/01/2024	United States	Polar Star
	16/02/2024	United Kingdom	HMS Tamar