

30 April 2024

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18–901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

Personal details removed for proactive release

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 29332

I refer to your email of 24 April 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

'I am writing to request information regarding documents held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) that contain specific keywords related to unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) including other synonyms, All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), and Autonomous Aerial Vehicles (AAV).'

1. *Keywords:*
 - a. *"UAP",*
 - b. *"UFO",*
 - c. *"USO",*
 - d. *"Drone"*
 - e. *"AARO"*
 - f. *"AAV"*
2. *Timeframe:*
 - a. *Please provide a list of documents, including files, emails, memos, or any other relevant records, that separately contain the specified keywords from the year 2019 to the present date.*
3. *Format of Information:*
 - a. *I request that the information be provided in a format that includes the title or description of each document, along with the date of creation or receipt, and any additional metadata available.*
4. *Further Details:*
 - a. *If the list of documents containing the specified keywords is extensive, I am willing to submit separate requests for each year to facilitate the processing of information.'*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) has no record of the information you have requested that *"...contain[s] specific keywords related to unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP)*

including other synonyms, All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), and Autonomous Aerial Vehicles (AAV)..." Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.


I do note that the Ministry has prepared, or have been involved in, the drafting of responses to previous OIA requests on similar topics. These responses are publicly available:

- <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2024/OIA-29210-UAP-26-March-2024.pdf>
- <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2023/OIA-28693-UAP-5-July-2023.pdf>

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