

26 August 2025

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

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

OIA 30344

Personal details removed for  
Proactive Release

Personal details  
removed for Proactive  
Release  
Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2025, transferred from the Ministry of Defence on 11 August 2025, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"I see we have had a some American warships here in recent years, how so? we are nuclear free and America neither confirms nor denies."*


New Zealand legislation does not require any state seeking diplomatic clearance for a foreign warship visit to make a declaration on nuclear armament or propulsion; advice is prepared by Ministry officials to the Prime Minister in relation to Section 9 and Section 11 of the *New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987*.

In providing relevant advice to the Prime Minister, officials draw on available and relevant information to determine the nuclear weapon and propulsion status of a specific foreign warship. This is a long-established process that applies to all countries requesting visits of naval ships to New Zealand. Approval may only be granted if the Prime Minister is satisfied that the vessel is not propelled by nuclear power, and will not be carrying any nuclear explosive device upon entry into the internal waters of New Zealand.

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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade