

Valerie Morse
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17 March 2020

Dear Valerie

RE: OIA BAE Systems/Hunter Class Frigate Programme

Thank you for your email of 10 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA):

- Any information held by NZTE - correspondence, briefings, notes, etc - relating to BAE Systems or the Australian Hunter Class Frigate programme.

The time frame for the information is 1 January 2017 to 10 January 2020. On 9 February NZTE extended your request.

Part of the information you have requested is enclosed. We have withheld information under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- s.6(a): prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- s6(d): protect the safety of any person.
- s9(2)(a): protect the privacy of natural person.
- s.9(2)(b)(ii): unreasonably prejudice a commercial position.
- s9(2)(k): prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain.

The Hunter Class Frigate Programme is an Australian Department of Defence contract that is fulfilled by BAE Systems. New Zealand companies, for the purposes of procurement for Australian government contracts, are considered domestic. BAE gave two presentations in New Zealand, one in Christchurch and another in Auckland. The material attached is the correspondence principally focussed on the preparations for these events. Other material relating to the Hunter Class Frigate Programme in this period has been released to you in the other OIA request you currently have lodged with NZTE.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Trochon
Director – Board and Ministerial