



14/02/2022

Ref: OIA 2122 1364

Bert Edwards  
fyi-request-18059-386f6d51@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Bert Edwards

Thank you for your email of 26 December 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

"I am seeking all information , Data and Documentation that The NZ Police , OFFCANZ ,GSCB ,S.I.S or the Aviation Authority or whom ever holds the information I am about to request please. Legally by law I'm a requesting all information I am legally entitled to, regarding the use of High altitude platforms, or Pseudo-satellites operating over Invercargill, What is their purpose , is it lawfull or is Invercargill a testing ground for Artificial Intelligence, illegal Surveillance, I have been observing these for quite some time along with , what appears to be Artifical Fog , Clouds etc lightning with no thunder , From what I have been observing I have enough suspicion to believe these Haps systems or that's what I believe they are , are doing possible illegal surveillance along with remotely piloted aerial vechiles ,under the pretext that they are "Weather balloons" or satalites associated with the local Awarua Satalite station , or space ops I might add as their website has timely updated its page name.

1. Are Haps systems or other uav operating over Invercargill.
2. If so what is their purpose and can you provide documentation and data please or any oia you are legally bound to give
3. Is it legal and have the community been made aware of this , Haps Systems provide a lot more information than Weather And More commonly used for gathering Intelligence."

Under the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 (the OSHAA) all vehicles launched from New Zealand that operate above Flight Level 600, such as High-altitude Pseudosatellites (HAPS), require a licence from the Minister for Economic and Regional Development. The Minister must be satisfied that the activity is safe, consistent with our international obligations and complies with all civil aviation regulations and licencing requirements. The Minister also considers the mission and purpose and any impacts on New Zealand's national interests including compliance with our laws and policies.

To date, no high-altitude licences for high-altitude pseudosatellites (HAPS) or other high-altitude vehicles have been approved for activities near Invercargill. The only high-altitude licences issued to date under the OSHAA have been for small suborbital rockets, launched by University of Canterbury Aerospace association from the Kaitorete Spit, and super pressure balloons that are planned to be launched by NASA from Wanaka later this year.

All unpiloted aircraft from any country, such as drones operating at lower altitudes, are required to comply with all Civil Aviation Authority regulations. These can be found in Part 101 and 102 of the Civil Aviation Rules.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AJ', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**Andrew Johnson**  
**Manager, Space Policy and Regulatory Systems**  
**Science, Innovation and International**