



Office of Hon Gerry Brownlee

MP for Ilam

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake
Recovery

Minister of Defence

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake
Commission

08 MAY 2015

Mattster Mcgee

fyi-request-2639-ac88c98c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Mcgee

I refer to your email of 21 April 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about dumping of munitions at sea after the Second World War. You asked:

... after World War 2 there were a number of weapons dumped off the New Zealand coastlines and that by law we were meant to have cleaned them all up by now, but from what I read the job was never reported to have been followed through on.

Was this followed through on? Did we clean up our coastlines of WW2 weapons or is this still an ongoing project?

After the Second World War, New Zealand's Armed Forces disposed of a variety of munitions by dumping them at sea. The surviving records clearly indicate that these operations were conducted with the full knowledge and authorisation of the relevant government bodies. The Defence Force, however, no longer holds papers relating to the disposal of unneeded wartime materiel. Relevant files are instead held by Archives New Zealand, and if you wish investigate the matters you have raised further, you may contact Archives at research.archives@dia.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister of Defence