



15 May 2024

Ref: DOIA 2324-2301

J Beddeck

Email: fyi-request-26478-066664f2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Beddeck

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I am interested in New Zealand's position regarding the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), a planned lunar installation led by the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

I note that New Zealand has signed the Artemis Accords, a similar program for lunar exploration led by the United States. If you could please give the following information.

- *Has the New Zealand Space Agency ever had plans to inquire about signing an MoU with the CNSA as it relates to space policy? Please release all records mentioning and relating to the ILRS including documents, email chains, minutes, etc.*
- *Please provide this information in an accessible, searchable format without a watermark. If any information needs to be withheld from a document, please ensure this is not done in a way that makes the surrounding content (such as other content on the same page) inaccessible.*
- *Please provide both the reason for removal of information as well as the grounds in support of that reason as outlined by section 17(2)(b) of the Act.*

I attach the following information that is within scope of the request:

A table setting out the documents containing information that is within scope of your request is attached as Annex One. Part of the information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a): Prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- Section 9(2)(b)(a): Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any

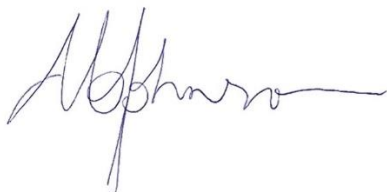
enactment, where the making available of the information – Would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; or would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

- Section 9(2)(g)(i): Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through – The free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty; or the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

We have considered the public interest test under section 9(1) in respect of the information withheld under section 9(2), and do not consider that withholding this information is outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, for the information to be released.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Johnson
Manager Space Policy and Sector Development
Science, Innovation and International

Annex One: Documents released

No.	Title	Decision	OIA Section/s or reason for redactions	Previously Released
1	[Title withheld] meeting email, agenda and minutes of meeting	Withheld	6(a), 9(2)(b)(a)	No
2	Lunar Policy Priorities Draft Report and email	Withheld	6(a), 9(2)(b)(a)	No
3	Lunar Policy Priorities Final Report	Release in full	Not applicable	No
4	New Zealand Science & Technology Quarterly Roundup – Issue 13, September 2022	Release in part	Out of scope	No
5	Exploration of Moon and Mars presentation	Release in part	6(a) and out of scope	No
6	Wider context analysis of signing Accords	Release in part	6(a), 9(2)(g)(i)	Yes
7	A business case for space debris	Release in full	Not applicable	No