

16 August 2024

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OIA 29550

Tēnā koe N. S Hudson

We refer to your email of 21 July 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

-May I please see the results of which keywords showed up for each file in the PDF mentioned.

-May I please see a copy of the contents of the 3x files named "FORMAL MESSAGE: US SHOOT DOWN PRC SURVEILLANCE BALLOON". I understand that two of them are Section 6a, so I understand that the 'necessary information' that would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand, will be redacted. I hope that there are still facts that do not fall under the Section 6a that will remain free to read.

On 30 July 2024 you agreed to amend your request to be for:

-May I please see a copy of the contents of the 3x files named "FORMAL MESSAGE: US SHOOT DOWN PRC SURVEILLANCE BALLOON."

The three documents you have requested are withheld in full under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

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/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade