



Te Pā Whakamarumarū
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6 September 2024

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Tēnā koe Ben

Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 10 August 2024 to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS). You asked the following:

“Please provide any and all information known or held by your department in any and all formats, including, but not limited to, documents, draft documents, reports, memos, letters, notes, electronic communications, transcripts, visual presentations, photography, and video/audio recordings containing information pertaining to geo-engineering, weather modification and Solar Radiation Management/Mitigation (SRM) with particular emphasis on cloud seeding, marine cloud brightening/engineering/seeding and Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI).

Additionally, please provide any and all information known or held by your department in any and all formats, including, but not limited to, documents, draft documents, reports, memos, letters, notes, electronic communications, transcripts, visual presentations, photography, and video/audio recordings containing information pertaining to barium, nano aluminium-coated fibreglass (known as chaff), radioactive thorium, cadmium, chromium, copper sulphate, nickel, strontium, graphene, desiccated blood, mould spores, yellow fungal mycotoxins, ethylene dibromide and polymer fibres with relation to their uses, or potential uses, in geo-engineering, weather modification, Solar Radiation Management/Mitigation, cloud seeding and Stratospheric Aerosol Injection.

And Finally, please provide any and all information known or held by your department in any and all formats, including, but not limited to, documents, draft documents, reports, memos, letters, notes, electronic communications, transcripts, visual presentations, photography, and video/audio recordings containing information pertaining to any mention of smart particles, nano machines, nano aerosols, nano-particulates or nano-sized aluminium particles with relationship, if any, to geo-engineering, weather modification, Solar Radiation Management/Mitigation, cloud seeding and Stratospheric Aerosol Injection.”

It may be helpful if I begin by outlining our role and mandate. The NZSIS is New Zealand’s domestic security agency and lead organisation for human intelligence (HUMINT). We collect and analyse intelligence in line with the Government’s National Security Intelligence Priorities (NSIPs). This means that the NZSIS only has an investigative interest when there is a national security nexus relevant to New Zealand. Our scope within the NSIPs is typically focused on protecting New Zealand from terrorism, violent extremism, espionage and foreign interference. Further information about our role and focus can be found online at: <https://www.nzsis.govt.nz/>.

In considering your request, I note from the fyi.org website that you made similar requests to several other entities. As such, I have interpreted your request to be for information created by the NZSIS only. In doing so, I have taken correspondence from members of the public to be out of scope of your request and have not sought to determine whether any could be of relevance.

A search of our document management systems identified a short memo drafted by the NZSIS in 2022 in scope of the first part of your request. I am unable to release this document in its entirety as doing so would be likely to prejudice the international relations of New Zealand, as protected by section 6(a) of the OIA. Instead, this material has been summarised as allowed for under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, as below.

This memo was prepared for the then-Director-General of the NZSIS in 2022. It notes foreign countries investigating geoengineering research. The memo notes the potential for such research to increase local rainfall, minimise hazardous weather, and cope with the effects of climate change. The memo includes the following definitions:

A. Weather modification: Efforts to influence local weather conditions by causing small changes to the weather in a particular locale for a period of days or weeks. Currently the most common form of weather modification is known as cloud seeding.

B. Geoengineering: Also known as 'climate intervention' or 'climate engineering', attempts to alter regional or global climate and atmosphere with the intention of changing the temperature of the planet over a multi-year period. The most commonly discussed form of geoengineering is known as stratospheric aerosol injection. It also can be referred to as solar radiation management or albedo modification.

No other information prepared by the NZSIS was identified as relevant to your request. You may be interested to know however that we also hold copies of the most recent Global Risks Reports, which include some information of relevance to your request. The editions retrieved through searches relevant to your request are for years 2021; 2022; 2023; and 2024. I note these Global Risks Reports are publicly available online at: <https://www.weforum.org/publications/series/global-risks-report/>.

You may also be interested in the NZSIS's recent publication *New Zealand's Security Threat Environment 2024*, which provides information about the national security threats facing New Zealand within the mandate and functions of the NZSIS. This is available online at: <https://www.nzsis.govt.nz/our-work/new-zealands-security-threat-environment>.

If you would like to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oia.privacy@nzsis.govt.nz. 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. Please note that the NZSIS proactively publishes OIA responses in accordance with the expectations of Te Kawa Mataaho/the Public Service Commission. We may publish this letter (with your personal information removed) on our website. Publication is typically done on a quarterly basis.

Ngā mihi



Andrew Hampton

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū
Director-General of Security