

3 February 2016

Alex Harris
fyi-request-3323-4f685705@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

I refer to your email of 4 November 2015 in which you request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"... when did the committee last advise the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade on disarmament and arms control matters, as empowered by s17(1)(a) of the Act? I would like a copy of the advice.*

** when did the committee last advise the Prime Minister on the implementation of the nuclear-free legislation, as empowered by s17(1)(b) of the Act? I would like a copy of the advice.*

** when did the committee last publish a report on disarmament or arms control matters, as empowered by s17(1)(c) of the Act? I would like a copy of the report..."*

The Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC) is a committee of experts that has a role in advising the Government on disarmament and arms control, and is responsible for making recommendations to disburse two funds related to disarmament and arms control. PACDAC was established by the 1987 New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act.

With regard to the first two parts of your request, please find attached a copy of a 2009 letter from then-outgoing acting Chair of PACDAC to then-Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control Georgina Te Heuheu outlining the range of recommendations made by PACDAC over the previous two years. This is the last written advice provided by PACDAC to the Minister and/or Prime Minister that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as Secretariat to PACDAC, has been able to locate. We are aware however that the Acting Chairs of PACDAC have periodic conversations with relevant Ministers. These conversations are not documented on Ministry files.

With regard to part three of your request, PACDAC commissioned research from former PACDAC member David Capie on small arms in the Pacific, which was published in 2003 by Victoria University Press as *'Under the Gun: The Small Arms Challenge in the Pacific'*. Since then, PACDAC has focused on supporting academic research on disarmament and arms control issues of particular interest through disbursement decisions relating to the Peace

and Disarmament Education Trust (PADET) and Disarmament Education United Nations Implementation Fund (DEUNIF).

For more information on PACDAC, please visit the MFAT website:
<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/disarmament/public-advisory-committee-on-arms-and-arms-control/>

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heath Fisher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heath Fisher
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade