



# Office of the Prime Minister

**Prime Minister**

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial  
Services

9 NOV 2016

Lance O'Riley  
fyi-request-4848-4b416f21@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 149-2016

Dear Lance O'Riley

**Official Information Act request relating to USS Sampson and the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act (1987)**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received on 27 October 2016 for:

1. *The process used to determine if the USS Sampson was to be granted entry into New Zealand waters.*
2. *Reasons why any previous ships from other nations (US or otherwise) have been declined under similar circumstances.*
3. *Copy of the information received to provide assurances that the USS Sampson is neither nuclear powered or armed in line with the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act (1987)."*

I believe that the second part of your request for "reasons why any previous ships from other nations (US or otherwise) have been declined under similar circumstances" is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer this part of your request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). The other parts of the request have not been transferred, and I will respond in due course.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Eagleson  
**Chief of Staff**