



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4623

27 February 2023

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 13 January 2023 to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The following part of your request was transferred by MFAT to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) on 27 January in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the OIA.

- *What is your current advice to the New Zealand Government concerning training Ukrainian soldiers.*

Cabinet papers concerning support for Ukraine, including the training of Ukrainian soldiers, were considered last year, and these are being prepared for public release.

The following updates were provided to the Minister of Defence in Defence Weekly Reports:

Week commencing 28 November 2022

Operation TĪEKE- Support to Ukraine's Self-Defence: Infantry Training Teams

1. The two New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) infantry training teams (totalling 120 personnel) have recently concluded their contribution to the United Kingdom (UK) led infantry training programme for members of the Ukraine Armed Forces. The two training teams successfully trained 638 trainees over the course of their deployment, equipping them with basic soldier skills to better prepare them for the defence of Ukrainian territory. New Zealand has received significant feedback and praise from senior international officials, world leaders, and Ukrainian soldiers for our contribution to this training programme, and the individual personnel involved have been recognised for their professionalism and commitment.

2. The teams are currently undergoing their decompression programme followed by a short respite period and will depart the UK by Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Boeing B757 on 6 December, arriving in New Zealand on 11 December. The recently approved single training team of up to 66 personnel will depart New Zealand in mid-January and commence training on 6 February. This team is forecast to train up to an additional 800 Ukrainian soldiers across two rotations of NZDF personnel before returning to New Zealand in July.

Week Commencing 5 December 2022

EUROPE: Operation TĪEKE – *The infantry training teams have now concluded their planned training activities and departed the United Kingdom by an RNZAF Boeing 757 aircraft on 7 December and is scheduled to arrive in NZ on 11 December.*

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF