



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

OIA-2023-4650

27 March 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 26 February 2023 to the New Zealand Police requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about body recovery during the Cyclone Gabrielle response. That part of your request concerning *what if any temporary morgue type facilities were set up or contemplated in or near Napier, Hastings or elsewhere in Hawkes Bay and in Wairoa and/or Gisborne area and include any internal or external advice relevant to these* was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) under the OIA.

The New Zealand Defence Force mobilised a number of capabilities in the immediate aftermath of the weather event. This was done without specific requests being received, in order to be prepared to assist civilian authorities quickly should those capabilities be needed. This included engineering, transport, communications, catering, and mortuary affairs personnel and equipment. The New Zealand Army deployed three qualified mortuary affairs personnel, a 20-foot refrigerated shelved container, and tent facility with a collection point established at the Napier Port.

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](http://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