



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

OIA-2023-4745

9th June 2023

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 22 May 2023 to the Office of Honourable Andrew Little MP requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

The defence housing investment will include \$75.4 million capital and \$10.1 million in operating funds for defence housing and the associated infrastructure and project costs including:

- *The Government's commitment to progress the commercial redress in the Ngati Rangī Claims Settlement Act 2019 to build up to 50 new houses at Waiouru*
- *A home improvement pilot for 6 properties in Burnham and 7 properties in Linton and Ohakea.*

I wish to ask for all reports, correspondence and submissions relating to this funding and project for these defence houses. In particular, all correspondence relating to the Ngati Rangī agreement to build up to 50 new houses, including any proposed plans for the Waiouru houses.

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA. Negotiations between the NZDF and Ngati Rangī remain ongoing. As the commercial terms have yet to be finalised, the information you have requested is withheld in full to enable negotiations to be carried out without prejudice in accordance with section 9(2)(j) of the OIA. The Housing Programme and Detailed Business Cases associated with the budget announcement are yet to go before Cabinet. Therefore, these submissions are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice which remains subject to consideration.

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