



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

OIA-2023-4805

25 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 26 August 2023 to the Ministry of Defence requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA. Your request was for the following information:

If there was an authority given, this request is for a copy of the authority given by a Minister authorising Defence assets to be used in the civil response to the 15 March terrorist attack. Under s 9(7) of the Defence Act 1990 the Minister must lodge such authorisations before the House of Representatives. If you do not have a copy of this lodgement, would it possible to be pushed in the right direction for where I can find it?

NZDF support to the civilian emergency on 15 March was provided in accordance with section 9 of the Defence Act and did not require ministerial authority. The Defence Act is publicly available online¹. A copy of the Chief of Defence Force Operational Directive authorising NZDF support is at Enclosure 1. NZDF contact information has been withheld from the order in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA, and NZ Police contact information is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

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

Enclosure:

1. CDF Directive

¹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0028/latest/DLM204973.html>



NZDF 3303/5

17 Mar 19

See Distribution List

CDF OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE 10/2019: NZDF SUPPORT TO NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUE SHOOTINGS

AUTHORITY

1. Issued by the Chief of Defence Force (CDF) pursuant to s.9 (1) (b) of the Defence Act 1990.

SITUATION

2. Multiple shootings have occurred at two Christchurch mosques on 15 March 19. New Zealand Police initially requested support from the NZDF to deal with the immediate situation and consequential investigations in response to this situation. Additional requests for NZDF assistance are possible from other Government agencies.

MISSION

3. NZDF is to provide support and assistance to the New Zealand Government in response to the shootings in Christchurch.

EXECUTION

Intent

4. **Purpose.** To support New Zealand Government coordinated response to the mass shooting in Christchurch.
5. **Method.** Provide personnel, logistics, estate and infrastructure, intelligence, and transport support to New Zealand Government agencies, including VIP transport to Ministers, if requested by the Military Advisor to the Minister of Defence.
6. **Endstate.** New Zealand Government agencies are successfully supported by NZDF contribution, NZDF reputation enhanced with all NZDF personnel safely returned to home location.

Tasks

7. **COMJFNZ** is to:
 - a. Coordinate NZDF support to New Zealand Government agencies' response;
 - b. Provide tracking, reporting and oversight of all NZDF personnel while deployed; and
 - c. Provide regular SITREPs of past and future activities. Frequency of SITREPs to be advised separately.
8. **Chiefs of Service** are to BPT support COMJFNZ if requested.
9. **CJDS** is to provide forensic odontological support and BPT to further support COMJFNZ if requested.
10. **DDPA** is to BPT develop a media plan to support the activity.

COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

11. **Timings.**
 - a. Deployment: Support to New Zealand Government commenced WEF 15 1400 Mar 19.
 - b. Return to home location: On order, BPT cease support to New Zealand Government agencies and return to home location.
12. **Logistics and Administration.** HQ JFNZ is to arrange personal allowances and oversee reporting.
13. **Public Affairs.** The HQNZDF point of contact for public and media enquiries is DPA.
14. **Finance.** HQ JFNZ is to capture marginal costs for support to New Zealand Government agencies to allow for cost tracking.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

15. **C2** NZDF personnel deployed to support New Zealand Government response will:
 - a. Remain under the full control of CDF; and
 - b. Be assigned under OPCOM to COMJFNZ.
16. Additional reporting requirements will be issued separately.
17. **Direct Liaison.** Direct liaison for support requests, planning and deployment between HQ JFNZ and the New Zealand Police is authorised.

18. Direct liaison for the coordination of VIP transport between HQ JFNZ and Military Advisor to the Minister of Defence is authorised. All VIP requests are to be advised to SCE Branch.

19. Requests of support from all other Government agencies, other than the New Zealand Police, are to be submitted to SCE Branch.

20. All requests considered to be outside of normal operations are to be advised to SCE Branch.

21. **Points of Contact.** Contact details are detailed below:

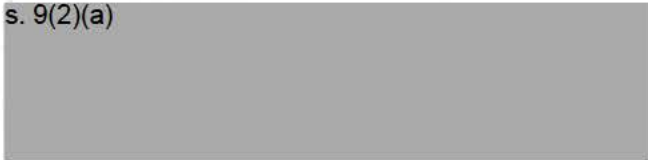
a. **HQ JFNZ.**

s. 6(a)



b. **New Zealand Police.**


s. 9(2)(a)



c. **SCE Br, HQNZDF.**

LTCOL A Blythen, DDSC-D

s.9(2)(k)



22. **Acknowledge Instructions.** Action addressees are to acknowledge receipt of this directive to s.9(2)(k)

s.9(2)(k)

s. 6(a)

2019.03.17 10:04:37
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For

K.R. SHORT

Air Marshal

Chief of Defence Force

Distribution List:

Action:

CN

CA

CAF

COMJFNZ

CJDS

DDPA

For Information:

VCDF

CoS HQNZDF

AC SCE

DDH

CO 1 Bde