



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

OIA-2024-4976

29 April 2024



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 27 March 2024 to the Ministry of Defence requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Any further information or documentation (subsequent to the results of the last NZDF archival investigations of 2016 & 2017 -attached) - that NZDF has in respect to sealed tunnels at Maungauika/North Head.

NZDF's current position statement with regards to sealed tunnels and/or deteriorating ammunition at Maungauika/North Head.

Confirmation that any information in NZDF documents or materials held in the National Archives (pertaining to Maunurauika/North Head) are non-classified - regardless of the current category of Restriction.

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with the OIA. The NZDF has investigated claims of hidden tunnels located in North Head/Maungauika on several occasions and has not found any evidence that they exist. There are three sealed tunnels, which are not hidden, located behind the gun pit and easily accessible. These tunnels were investigated in the 1990s and found to be empty. They do not contain ammunition or any other equipment. The NZDF is no longer a custodian of North Head and no additional information is held by the NZDF.

With respect to historic information held by Archives New Zealand, the NZDF declassifies all documents passed to Archives New Zealand. Restricted access may apply, however, based on the nature of the information contained in those documents.

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