



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

OIA-2025-5319

3rd

June 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 19 March 2025 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

- *How NZDF is considering **rising sea levels and climate-driven displacement** in strategic planning for Pacific communities.*
- *The use of AI in **environmental monitoring, resource logistics, and predictive analytics for disaster relief efforts.***
- *Current frameworks for **coordinating care package distribution and emergency response using automation or AI-assisted tracking.***
- *Any NZDF engagements with **island nation groups beyond the South Pacific**, and how technology is being integrated into broader resilience efforts.*
- *How NZDF approaches **humanitarian efforts** within Pacific communities—are there **pre-planned initiatives for disaster relief and climate resilience**, or is response primarily **real-time and situational**?*

On 24 March 2025, the Ministry transferred your request to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for consideration under the OIA. I apologise for the significant delay in providing this response.

The NZDF maintains contingency plans to respond to a range of emergencies. During the high-risk weather season from November to April, NZDF force elements remain at a high level of readiness to respond to regional weather emergencies. The high-risk weather season, however, is not the only driver for NZDF activities and responses are real time and situational. These activities and responses reflect the needs of the affected nation and the NZDF assets available.

The NZDF maintains regular liaison with our NZ diplomatic missions in the South Pacific and works with those posts, and the nations where they are located, to understand local needs and capacity. With Australia, the NZDF also works closely with South Pacific defence forces to enable a coordinated response to regional crises. As an example of engagement with groups beyond the South Pacific, the NZDF also participates in the Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum. The strategic environment for New Zealand is outlined in the 2025 Defence Capability Plan<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.defence.govt.nz/assets/publications/Defence-Capability-Plan-25.pdf>

The NZDF does not currently use artificial intelligence (AI) in environmental monitoring, resource logistics, and predictive analytics for disaster relief efforts; and, AI-assisted tracking is not currently used to coordinate care package distribution and emergency responses.

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

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF