



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

OIA-2025-5324.1

7th
May 2025

Steven Morse
fyi-request-30533-685abb0a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Stephen Morse

I refer to your email of 15 April 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), further information regarding your previous request (OIA-2025-5324):

...I am making a further request as to whether the NZDF retains any record of why and for what material/reasons it bans New Zealanders from commenting on NZDF actions on social media channels, whether in the form of a spreadsheet, or in the form of email communications to a group inbox or supervisor, or in whatever other way it may be retained. Should they exist, I am also requesting these records in electronic form (not as a summary).

On the other hand, if NZDF personnel simply arbitrarily ban those who politely criticize the likes of its environmental terrorism against Samoa without retaining any records of why it does so, please make that clear.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does not retain a record of reasons for blocking any given user. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the information does not exist. While the right to block users is reserved, blocking is not done arbitrarily. It is a last resort tool that is rarely used and then only in relation to egregious or repeated violations of community guidelines.

Only a small team of experienced professionals have permission to block users on NZDF channels. That team has no record or recollection of a user being blocked because of polite criticism. You will find examples of criticism ranging from polite to robust across the NZDF's social media presence.

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.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF