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New Zealand Defence Force  
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Wellington Mail Centre  
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5381

13 May 2025

Valerie Morse

[fyi-request-30916-fb63a000@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-30916-fb63a000@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Valerie Morse

I refer to your email of 7 May 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

*I note NZDF recently signed a Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with the Philippines.  
Please provide a copy of this agreement*

While the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement has been signed by Defence Minister Judith Collins KC and Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr, it cannot yet be made public. This is because the Agreement is yet to be ratified by the Senate of the Philippines. As such, the signed copy is currently withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

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.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF