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OIA-2025-5387

28<sup>th</sup> July 2025

[redacted]  
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Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 13 May 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*I've attached a recently published OIA response [OIA-2025-5353\_Assurances-that-weapons-are-accounted-for]. The OIA letter includes a list of missing weapons which includes "6 x Suppressors, 21 Feb 20, not found".*

*With reference to the OIA, could NZDF please provide all information relating to those suppressors going missing and all information relating to the inquiry into finding those suppressors?*

I apologise for the delay in responding. In February 2020, 1 NZSAS Regiment (NZSAS) alerted the Joint Military Police Unit (JMPU) that six suppressors (Surefire SOCOM556-RC-BK) were identified as missing as part of a stock take. As is usual practice, the JMPU requested that NZSAS conduct an internal check to confirm that the items were indeed missing before it would conduct an investigation. As a result of this check, three of the six missing suppressors were located. The results of the check were not provided to the JMPU, and for this reason, a JMPU investigation was not initiated at the time.

Relevant extracts from a 3 June 2020 NZSAS Minute are provided below. Information concerning other matters is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

*As per the direction laid out in ref A, 1 NZSAS Regt has undertaken a detailed stocktake IOT purge the account of anomalies prior to the changeover to the valuated domain. This stocktake has uncovered anomalies laid out in enclosure 1 dating back to 2014.*

*Due to the timeframe these anomalies have occurred, over which include numerous handovers, postings and release of staff, the exact cause for each anomaly has not been determined. Due to the impending deadline of changeover to the valuated domain at which point these items will be expensed to 1 NZSAS Regt, as well as the unlikely event in which these anomalies will be tracked back to a specific cause, detailed investigations for each item have not been conducted<sup>4</sup>.*

*General investigations by the RQMS and staff have determined that poor accounting processes, lack of adherence to extant policy and MD502 management, as well as a lack of accountability over the previous decade has almost certainly contributed to these losses.*

*Due to the nature and cost of anomalies listed in Enclosure 1 they have been loaded onto the loss of stores share point register and reported to NZDF MPs as detailed in enclosure 2<sup>5</sup>.*

### **Recommendations**

*It is recommended the followings actions are taken:*

***note the accounting and procedural failings leading to these anomalies***

*4. DFO 52, Chap 13, Sec 5*

*5 DFO(A) Vol 4, Part 1, Chap 16, Sect 2*

In May 2025, the JMPU were contacted again by NZSAS who confirmed that the suppressors were still missing. A JMPU file was generated, and in accordance with the reporting requirements, the items were reported to the New Zealand Police. No JMPU investigation was conducted as the items had since been written off.

For your information, all weapon suppressors have been consolidated, both electronically and physically into central Unit armouries. A single Armoury Issue and Receipt book is now used to physically sign out suppressors, and all suppressors are reconciled monthly in accordance with New Zealand Army stocktaking policy. Centralising electronic records and the physical location of weapon suppressors has increased equipment compliance and control while reducing complexity. These additional requirements conform to the NZDF and NZ Army accounting policies and procedures. All Unit staff have been briefed on the procedure and process.

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