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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5411

19th

June 2025

[redacted]@rnz.co.nz

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 27 May 2025, asking the following questions:

Pls advise why does NZDF still use drones the US classifies as having been made by a 'Chinese Military Company'?

Are DJI drones used by NZDF for surveillance?

Your questions have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The New Zealand Defence Force considers a range of factors, including but not limited to security, when using platforms for tasks. As noted in a 2021 response to you, DJI drones are only to be used for training support tasks and are not for operational use.

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

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF