



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

OIA-2025-5575

17th

November 2025



Dear 

I refer to your email of 5 October 2025, transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force on 17 October 2025 by the Ministry of Defence, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

The United States' National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 directs the Secretaries of Defense and State to "establish and maintain a security cooperation initiative (referred to in this section as the 'Partnership') to strengthen cooperation among the defense industrial bases of the United States and allied and partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region." Concerning the possibility of New Zealand involvement in this "Partnership," the NDAA states that the US will "establish a process to determine which allies and partners of the United States (including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, the Philippines, and New Zealand) shall be invited to participate as member countries."

Please provide briefings, Cabinet papers, and any communications and advice concerning this matter.

Noting the request is based on a United States' Government direction with a United States' Government perspective, and you refused to provide a refinement to facilitate the identification of particular information, your request is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA. As you were initially requested, were you to refine your request it would be considered accordingly.

For your information, New Zealand Government policy determines which military-to-military agreements the New Zealand Defence Force will enter into. These agreements are signed by the Chief of Defence Force, or the Vice Chief of Defence Force, and do not produce Cabinet papers.

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