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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5609

17<sup>th</sup>  
December 2025

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 25 November 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *any information held which provide guidance or protocols for use of partner networks - such as the United States' networks referred to - and the Official Information Act.*

All requests for information about New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) operations are considered on a case-by-case basis, and decisions are informed by relevant final opinions from the Chief Ombudsman and guidance from the Office of the Ombudsman where appropriate. Defence Force Instruction 7.2 provides the policy for managing official information and is publicly available on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

NZDF networks are to be used in the first instance to create and maintain information of the NZDF contribution to multinational force operations; however, partner networks will also be used to create and maintain multinational force information. As a result, NZDF personnel may only have access to partner networks because of operational requirements or restrictions. Multinational force information is owned by the multinational force or partner country and subject to international agreements. These agreements are based on the need to exchange information where there is a need for mutual cooperation, there is no right of access to information.

While the NZDF will undertake best efforts to transfer NZDF information to its own networks, there will be situations where the NZDF cannot access or transfer information held on partner networks; particularly when the activity, and/or NZDF involvement, has ceased and access and information sharing rights are no longer required.

The NZDF may consider whether sections 6(a), 6(b), or other grounds of the OIA apply when assessing the release of information from multinational force operations. The appropriateness of these grounds will be informed by a range of factors, including but not limited to: the originator of the information; the security classification; access rights to the information; and, the purpose for which the information was created.

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.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/dfi\\_7\\_2.pdf](https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/dfi_7_2.pdf)

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