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OIA-2025-5621

26th March 2026

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to the email to you of 9 February 2026, this response provides a redacted copy of the Operations Lifecycle Enhancement Programme Closure Report, and addresses the outstanding parts of your request.

The current NZDF policy, order, directive, or guidance governing retention, access, or repatriation of NZDF-generated information held on partner networks;

When New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel create or maintain information on systems owned by partners, it is subject to international agreements. These agreements are specific to the activities being undertaken, are based on the need to exchange information, and do not necessarily confer right of access to the information. The NZDF will undertake best efforts to transfer information to its own systems, however may not always be able to do so. NZDF Legal Services will carry out assessments and develop national policy caveats specific to the activity to ensure that New Zealand law is followed. The caveats are withheld pursuant to section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The most recent document that records any plan, decision, or action taken to index, catalogue, or digitise the East Timor era operational files or other unindexed historical operational material (particularly the material recovered from the former Defence House and stored on pallets in a warehouse);

No decision has yet been made to index, catalogue, or digitise the hardcopy files containing records of operations in East Timor. Similarly, no documented plans or actions relating to this part of your request exist, and it is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

The document(s) that record the loss of email-search capability since May 2024, including any incident report, briefings, or update to senior leaders;

The document(s) that record the hybrid email system security-scan failure and any resulting uncertainty about the location of archived email;

The most recent document that records NZDF's expected timeline or plan for restoring full email-search capability;

The document that is most relevant to these parts of your request is a 30 June 2025 Dot-Point Brief, and two of its enclosures, that are provided at enclosure 2. Enclosures 1 and 4 of the Dot-Point Brief are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA as they are descriptions of secure digital systems used by deployed personnel. Where indicated, information describing vulnerabilities or operational systems is withheld in accordance with

section 6(a) of the OIA; personal information is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a); information that would prejudice the NZDF's ability to carry on negotiations is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(j); and, signatures are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(k) to avoid the malicious or inappropriate use of staff information, such as phishing, scams or unsolicited advertising.

Any NZDF-held document - including drafts, internal emails, advice, or updates - relating to NZDF's response to the Chief Ombudsman's 2024 Operation Burnham case note, including preparation of a six-month progress update or any decision not to provide one.

An email response was provided by the NZDF in response to the Ombudsman's request for a progress update. While technically not considered official information by definition of the OIA, the following excerpt is from that correspondence with the office of the Ombudsman is provided for your information:

In respect of the applicable recommendation of the Expert Review Group, improving information management continues to be a priority for the NZDF. The Information Management Programme (IMP) Programme Business Case was approved by Cabinet in July 2023 and since then has continued to follow the appropriate process of developing a Detailed Business Case in order to return to Cabinet for funding. The Tranche 1 Detailed Business Case received Cabinet approval in December 2024 and the NZDF is now engaged with Treasury over the required budget uplift for Budget 2025.

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

Enclosures:

1. Operations Lifecycle Enhancement Programme closure report
2. Dot-Point Brief