



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

OIA-2026-5637

17th February 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 14 January 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

What advice has been sought and/or provided on the legal authority for NZDF to participate in Exercise Talisman Sabre, and Operation Calypso.

No advice has been sought on the legal authority of NZDF participation in Exercise Talisman Sabre or Operation Calypso as they fall within the Government directed outputs for the NZDF.

Operation Calypso is the overarching operational name for the deployment of the Royal New Zealand Navy to the Pacific Region. It supports New Zealand's foreign policy by contributing to regional security operations, for instance – supporting the Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group, the Ministry of Primary Industries, and providing support at the direct request of Pacific nation governments.

Exercise Talisman Sabre is held every two years and is designed to improve and strengthen interoperability and combat readiness in complex, multi-domain operations. Last year it involved personnel and platforms from 19 nations, including our ally Australia. Such exercises provide New Zealand valuable opportunities to maintain combat-ready military forces enhancing NZDF force generation and warfighting capabilities.

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