



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

OIA-2026-5647

 February 2026



Dear 

I refer to your email of 31 January 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the following information about New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) use of Starlink:

1. *Please provide copies of any risk assessments done for use of the Starlink satellite internet service.*
2. *Please could you provide the number of Starlink terminals the NZDF is currently using?*
3. *Does the NZDF use Starlink for any equipment other than the Bluebottle drones?*
4. *Did the NZDF explore the possibility of using another satellite internet service before choosing to use Starlink? If so, what were the other options that were considered?*
5. *Since the NZDF began the use of Starlink, has the NZDF looked into the possibility of a satellite internet service other than Starlink? If so, please can you provide detail?*

Since 2012, the NZDF has participated in the Wideband Global Satellite Communications System. This is an international partnership that provides communications satellites for military purposes. For general communications, the NZDF considers a wide range of communications systems, as well as satellite communications. This includes, but is not limited to, proliferated Low-Earth Orbit (pLEO) satellite communications providers such as Starlink and OneWeb.

Starlink may be used for general communications, in support of Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Recovery operations, and private internet access for deployed personnel who are off duty.

Risk assessments consider a wide range of elements, including the extent to which a service provider meets the needs of the NZDF. Copies of risk assessments, and the number of Starlink terminals in use by the NZDF, are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

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