



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

OIA-2026-5685

24th March 2026

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 February 2026, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) ***all information relating to the handling of the query below made by the NZ Herald on January 8 2026.***

Enclosed in two parts are copies of relevant information within the scope of your request. Where indicated, information is withheld to: protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA; maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA; and, avoid the malicious or inappropriate use of staff information, such as phishing, scams or unsolicited advertising in accordance with section 9(2)(k) of the OIA.

In accordance with section 28(3) of the OIA, you may ask an Ombudsman to review the withholding of information. Information regarding the process 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

Enclosure:

1. Email correspondence part 1
2. Email correspondence part 2

Ministerial Services

From: Preece, Dewi
Sent: Friday, 9 January 2026 9:49 a.m.
To: Williams, David
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks for this Dave – Min Svcs won’t have anything from Army yet due to the shutdown, I think next week is really the first week when people will be back on deck and able to look at that OIA.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 9 January 2026 7:41 am
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Dewi,
I flagged this query with Min Services but they haven’t got anything back yet from Army to help with.
The draft response needs to be checked for accuracy. I’ve kept it brief because this kind of stuff doesn’t need any oxygen.
Dave

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:29 am
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

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Hi there,

I'm wanting to know if NZDF is aware of the following and, if so, what it is doing about it.

It involves the leaking of NZDF documents, apparently by serving NZDF personnel, used by a conspiracy "influencers" to frame NZDF as being part of a culture war.

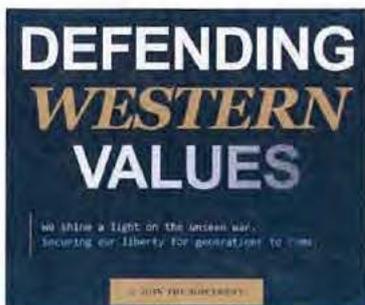
This clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Rfx-FuREE8>) features two "influencers" from the conspiracy community talking about being leaked training plans by members of NZDF.

The content of that is in the video. It appears to be sourced from the following.



The training plan is a fairly standard 5E scenario for an exercise.

It's the interpretation that has been placed on the scenario, the attribution of the leak to the United We Stand (<https://www.unitedwestand.nz/>) group, and the way that group is now framing itself on its website as: "Defending Western Values - We shine a light on the unseen war. Securing our liberty for generations to come."



The video highlights the scenario posing the opposing force as "extremist Christians" and that there are Islamic friendlies.

The language used in the video and by United We Stand would appear to be strongly associated with modern culture-war rhetoric.

It frames political and social disagreements as a civilisational struggle in which "the West" is portrayed as a unified cultural entity under threat.

It goes down some strange rabbit holes. There's reference in the material to Route Rainbow being vulnerable to attack. The influencers seize on the rainbow flag as a signal to the gay and trans community.

That's got to be a very uncomfortable mix for NZDF (and probably one I'll write about). Having active members who will pass on training information on the basis they are "defending Western values" by highlighting NZ's secret war against Christians is concerning.

NZDF has previously identified isolated cases where personnel engaged with far-right or extremist ideologies and has treated those situations as security risks. It should be said there has been no evidence of widespread or institutionalised ideological capture.

Could you please come back to me on this? There is no particular rush but by the end of next week would be good, thanks.

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: Preece, Dewi
Sent: Tuesday, 20 January 2026 10:26 a.m.
To: Hayward, Paul, COL
Cc: Army GS
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

Morning Paul,

Hopefully this Fisher query is a bit of an easier/quicker one to get out the door – would this slightly simplified version s. 9(2)(g)(i) work?

The scenario described in the document is one of many produced and used by partner militaries, subsequently adapted to a New Zealand location.

This is just one of a large variety of training scenarios used by the NZDF, and it is unfortunate the group has interpreted it the way it has.

The New Zealand Army became aware of this matter in December.

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843

Internal: 3497296

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Preece, Dewi
Sent: Monday, 12 January 2026 9:41 am
To: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

Morning Bernie, Paul,

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers,

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Friday, 9 January 2026 11:05 am
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Bernie Grant
 Army General Staff, Chief of Staff
 Working location: Defence House
 s. 9(2)(a)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



UNCLASSIFIED

From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 9 January 2026 10:25 am
To: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Subject: FW: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Morning team,

Further to the OIA that came in, David Fisher has subsequently picked up on the training material story down South, and has put in a request for comment. This can roll into next week when more people are back on deck.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Dewi Preece

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UNCLASSIFIED

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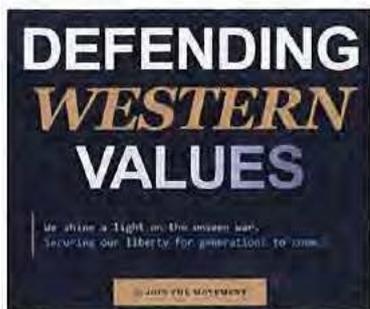
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It's the interpretation that has been placed on the scenario, the attribution of the leak to the United We Stand (<https://www.unitedwestand.nz/>) group, and the way that group is now framing itself on its website as: "Defending Western Values - We shine a light on the unseen war. Securing our liberty for generations to come."



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That's got to be a very uncomfortable mix for NZDF (and probably one I'll write about). Having active members who will pass on training information on the basis they are "defending Western values" by highlighting NZ's secret war against Christians is concerning.

NZDF has previously identified isolated cases where personnel engaged with far-right or extremist ideologies and has treated those situations as security risks. It should be said there has been no evidence of widespread or institutionalised ideological capture.

Could you please come back to me on this? There is no particular rush but by the end of next week would be good, thanks.

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: Williams, David
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 8:44 a.m.
To: Preece, Dewi
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Dewi, I knew there was a Fisher query still out there. Has this one moved at all?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 1:55 pm
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Re: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Not yet sorry, I can chase

Dewi Preece
Public Affairs Manager (Army)

DPA, Defence Public Affairs | Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
www.nzdf.mil.nz

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri
✓ ✓   ✓

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2026 1:54:01 PM
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Dewi,
At the risk of blowing your David Fisher fuse... has there been any joy with the response on this one?
Dave

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 January 2026 9:45 am
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Fab, thanks

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force
Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 January 2026 9:32 am
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



UNCLASSIFIED

From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 January 2026 9:24 am
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



I believe COL Hayward is back on deck this week so notwithstanding him clearing urgent things first, we should get movement on this

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force
Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Army GS s. 9(2)(k) [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 9 January 2026 11:05 am
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k) [redacted]; Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Subject: RE: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Bernie Grant

Army General Staff, Chief of Staff
Working location; Defence House
s. 9(2)(a) [redacted]
www.nzdf.mil.nz



UNCLASSIFIED

From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 9 January 2026 10:25 am
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Subject: FW: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

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s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Dewi Preece

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Mobile: 021 919 843
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www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:29 am
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

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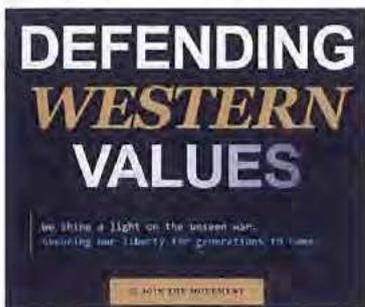
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David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: Preece, Dewi
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 12:57 p.m.
To: Williams, David
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

I'll check in on my end, but my understanding was that fundamentally the response to Fisher was tied to the Min Services OIA query that came from the member of the public – in that the same fundamental answer was going to both.

Potentially Army have sent the response to Min Services expecting it to be disseminated out to both, but that hasn't been clear.

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 12:55 pm
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Dewi, do you know where this one is at? I thought it was with Min Services but they say no...
Dave

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 12:52 pm
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Dave,

My understanding is this was being managed by DPA – it was never passed to us to manage.

This is why I mentioned to you the other week that we had received input for the other responses and expected that Army would be providing similar advice/input to DPA/Dewi.

The other responses are on our website under OIA-2025-5622-OIA2026-5635-Training-Information. These also informed responses from MINDEF.

Cheers

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

From: Williams, David
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 12:47 p.m.
To: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi team,
Mr Fisher is chasing his response on this query? Is there anything I can tell him?
Cheers
Dave

UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 12:41 pm
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Request more than a month overdue

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Hi there,

I've not heard back on this request. Could somebody please advise when I will?

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

From: David Fisher
Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:28 am
To: media@nzdf.mil.nz <media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

Hi there,

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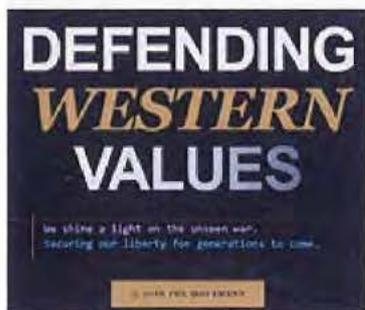
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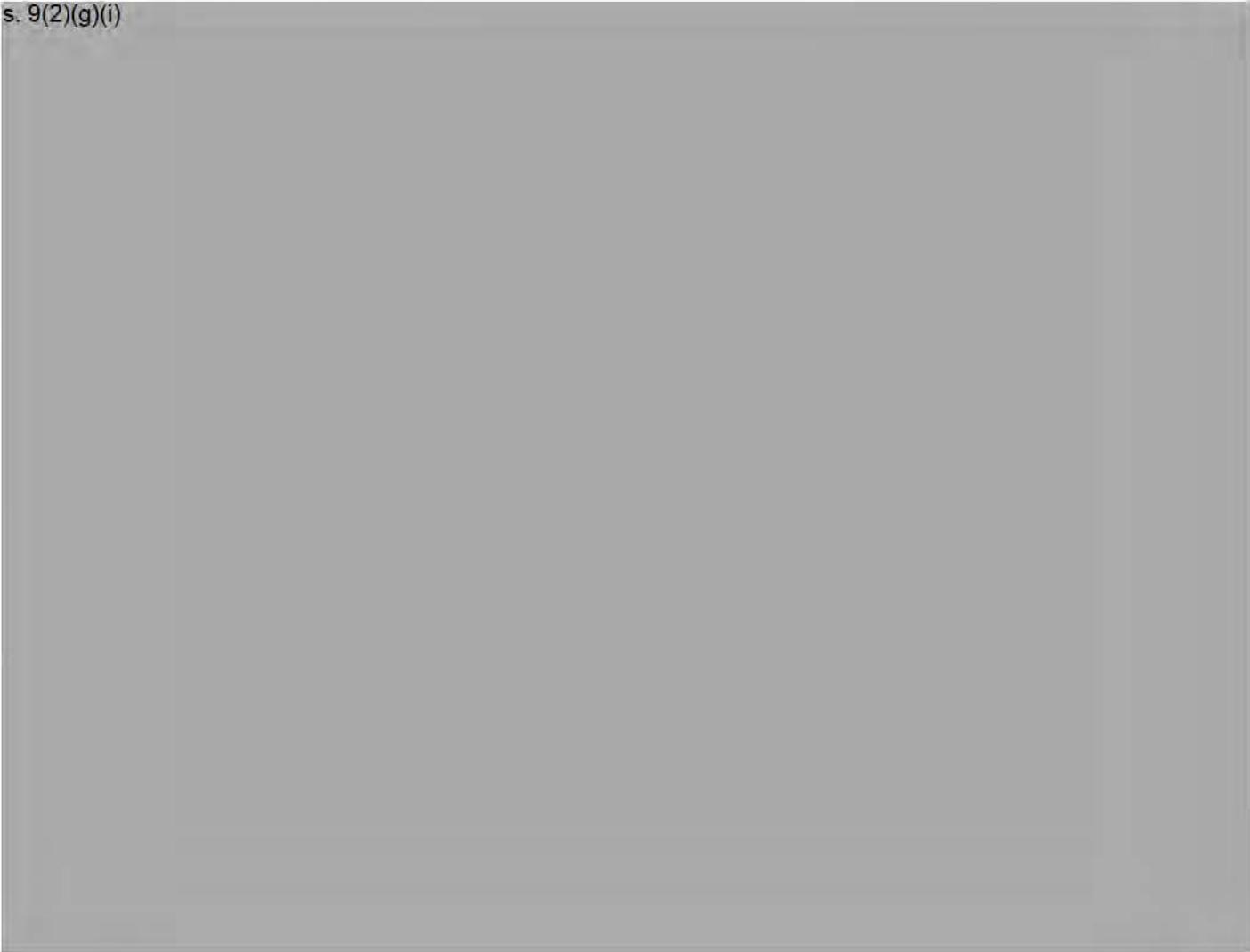
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Ministerial Services

From: Preece, Dewi
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 3:53 p.m.
To: Hayward, Paul, COL
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Thanks Paul – just before I reply with everything involved, checking you mean to add this to what I'd drafted? So it becomes as below s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843

Internal: 3497296

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 3:35 pm
To: Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k); Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a); Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

From: Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 13:35
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a); Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Ack I will leave this for Paul to respond when able.

s. 9(2)(a)
 Executive Officer AGS / Temp EA to DCA
 Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 1:13 pm
To: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Thanks s. 9(2)(a)

So I think the intent had been for that same OIA response to also cover the Fisher query (which was not an OIA) but I don't think that was actioned separately.

Fisher's queries are in essence much simpler, so a short response drafted below. The red portion is what is lifted from the already published OIA response.

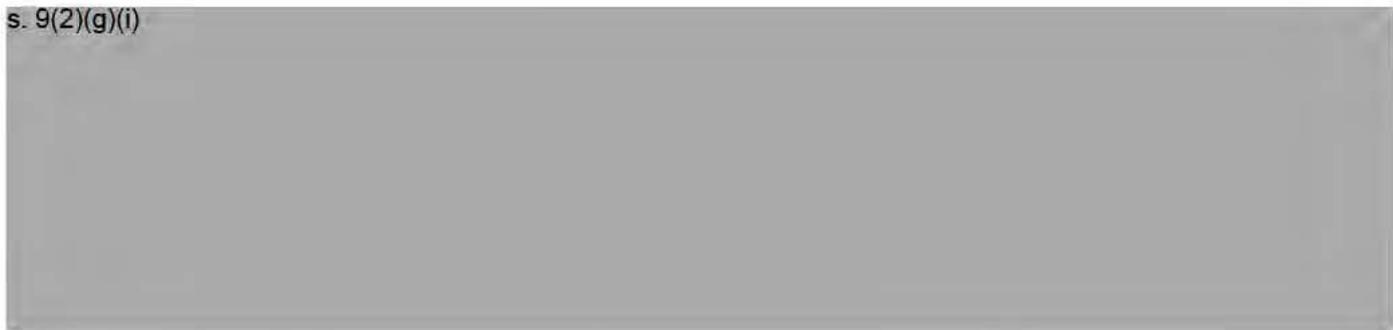
Can Paul/DCA please review and say if we're happy with the below?

Min Svcs – have kept you in the loop for viz of this, but will drop you out of the thread as it progresses.

Apologies a response didn't come back to you sooner on this one – it got caught up with a separate and concurrent OIA on the same issue, which you can find published here: [XXX \(link\)](#)

The NZ Army was made aware of this towards the end of last year.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



The Army always takes any leak of information seriously and conducts investigations where necessary.

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 1:05 pm
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a) ; Army GS
s. 9(2)(k) ; Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Kia ora Dewi

In response to your email, Below was our response sent to Min Svcs on 4 Feb.

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 8:55 am
To: Ministerial Services ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k); s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Army reply: OIA-2025-5622 / MIN-2026-0217 / MIN-2026-0129 (Training Environment) [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Please find below the Army's drafted response regarding the Burnham training scenario. I believe this response addresses the following matters: OIA-2025-5622, MIN-2026-0217, and MIN-2026-0129.

If you require any further information or clarification, please let me know.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



s. 9(2)(g)(i)



s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(a)

Executive Officer AGS / Temp EA to DCA
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 1:00 pm

To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Ministerial Services
<ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Kia ora all,

Can I please check whether this was the final version of the response that got sent out as part of OIA-2025-5622?

We also had a similar, but slightly different set of questions from David Fisher on the same topic, and unsure if the intent was for the same response to be sent to both?

Otherwise I'm happy to look at the below version, and tailor it for Fisher's query and send that around for a final QC

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843

Internal: 3497296

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 3:45 pm
To: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: s. 9(2)(a); Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a); Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a); Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k); Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Fw: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi s. 9(2)(a)

Final AGS draft response to this OIA around training scenarios please.

ACA(T)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



From: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 3:24 pm
To: Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi Ed,

All understood, and I am happy with your suggested amendment.

Regards

BRIG Jason Dyhrberg, DSD

Land Component Comd - HQJFNZ, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 2:45 pm

To: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Sir,

I've spoken with G7 and I understand he's also spoken to you, which may make this moot.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Regards

Ed

Colonel Edward Craw
Commander, Army Training Group

Officer in Charge, Waiouru Defence Area
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 11:31 am

To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi Paul,

My only suggested modification is highlighted in yellow below – s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Regards

BRIG Jason Dyhrberg, DSD

Land Component Comd - HQJFNZ, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 11:23 am

To: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi Gents, could you please check my updated response before I release to Min Svcs to respond to this OIA.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



From: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)

Sent: Monday, 26 January 2026 8:21 pm

To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Sir,

Do we have COMD Clearance to release this back to Ministerials as ARMY's reply to the questions (below your answers)

Bernie Grant

Army General Staff, Chief of Staff

Working location; Defence House

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA
NZ ARMY

From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 23 January 2026 2:29 pm

To: s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Army GS s. 9(2)(k)

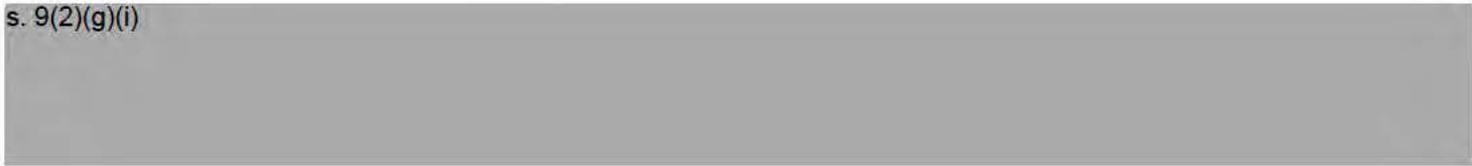
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 DCA guidance this morning, answering Dewi's query ;

Importance: High

Gents, is my draft statement factually correct?

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Kind Regards

COL Paul Hayward

Assistant Chief of Army (Training)/G7, Army General Staff
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



“

Question
1. <i>How widely is this General Idea with this enemy scenario used? i.e. what units and courses use it?</i>
2. <i>When and by whom was this enemy scenario developed?</i>
3. <i>When and by whom was this enemy scenario approved?</i>
4. <i>Why does this enemy scenario differ from the DATE-P scenarios generally used by NZ Army?</i>
5. <i>What other current training documents within the NZDF use an enemy based on Christians or people with traditional</i>
6. <i>Given that fictional enemy scenarios are typically built upon actual or likely adversaries does the NZDF assess Christia</i>
7. <i>What, if any, communication has occurred from senior leadership directing alignment to Christians or people with tra</i>
8. <i>What, if any, communication has been provided from government or other government agencies on Christic</i>

Ministerial Services

From: Mason, Alex
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 1:25 p.m.
To: Preece, Dewi; Williams, David
Cc: TeamMedia
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

Looks good.

Ngā mihi,

Alex

Alex Mason (she/her)
Media and Communications Manager - DPA, Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Office: 04 496 0999 **Mobile:** 027 245 5168

www.nzdf.mil.nz

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓	✓	X	✓	✓

X = Please note, I don't work Wednesdays



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From: Preece, Dewi
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 11:52 a.m.
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i), s. 9(2)(a)

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843

Internal: 3497296

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 9:49 am

To: Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>; Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>

Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



UNCLASSIFIED

From: Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 8:44 am
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i); Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

Bumping this one.

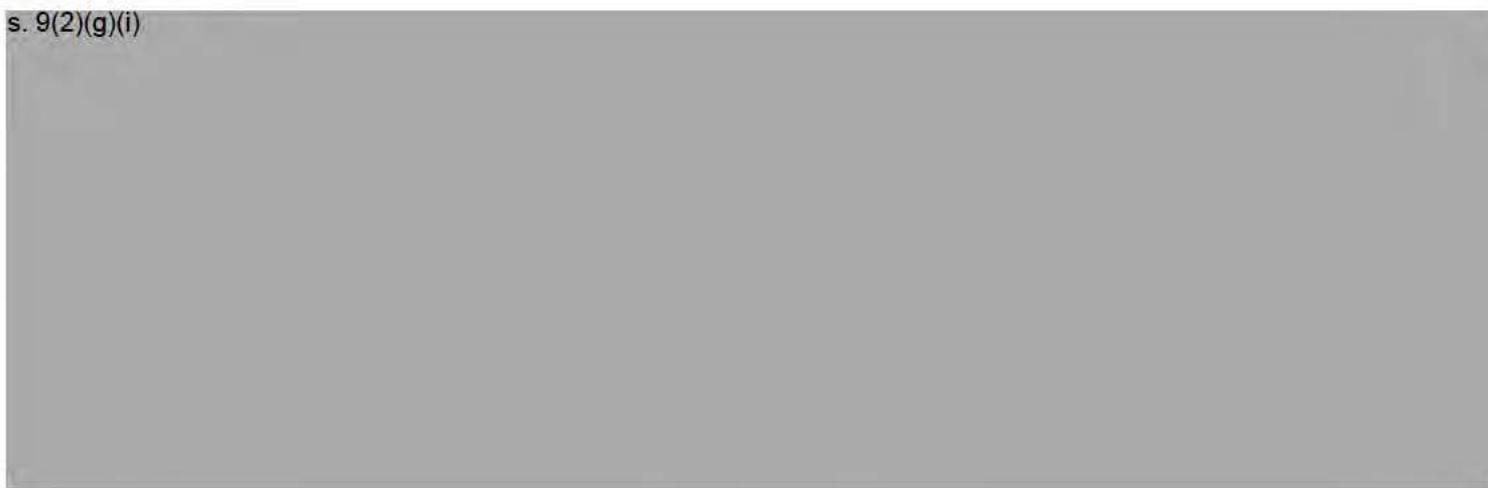
From: Williams, David
Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 9:06 a.m.
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Response for Mr Fisher:

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



s. 9(2)(g)(i)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:41:28 PM
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Request more than a month overdue

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Hi there,

I've not heard back on this request. Could somebody please advise when I will?

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

From: David Fisher
Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:28 am
To: media@nzdf.mil.nz <media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

Hi there,

I'm wanting to know if NZDF is aware of the following and, if so, what it is doing about it.

It involves the leaking of NZDF documents, apparently by serving NZDF personnel, used by a conspiracy "influencers" to frame NZDF as being part of a culture war.

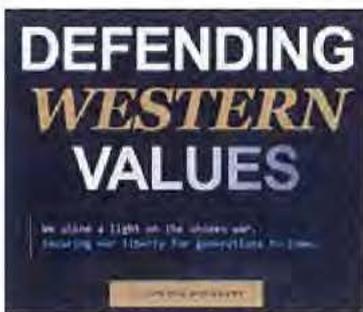
This clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Rfx-FuREE8>) features two "influencers" from the conspiracy community talking about being leaked training plans by members of NZDF.

The content of that is in the video. It appears to be sourced from the following.



The training plan is a fairly standard 5E scenario for an exercise.

It's the interpretation that has been placed on the scenario, the attribution of the leak to the United We Stand (<https://www.unitedwestand.nz/>) group, and the way that group is now framing itself on its website as: "Defending Western Values - We shine a light on the unseen war. Securing our liberty for generations to come."



The video highlights the scenario posing the opposing force as "extremist Christians" and that there are Islamic friendlies.

The language used in the video and by United We Stand would appear to be strongly associated with modern culture-war rhetoric.

It frames political and social disagreements as a civilisational struggle in which "the West" is portrayed as a unified cultural entity under threat.

It goes down some strange rabbit holes. There's reference in the material to Route Rainbow being vulnerable to attack. The influencers seize on the rainbow flag as a signal to the gay and trans community.

That's got to be a very uncomfortable mix for NZDF (and probably one I'll write about). Having active members who will pass on training information on the basis they are "defending Western values" by highlighting NZ's secret war against Christians is concerning.

NZDF has previously identified isolated cases where personnel engaged with far-right or extremist ideologies and has treated those situations as security risks. It should be said there has been no evidence of widespread or institutionalised ideological capture.

Could you please come back to me on this? There is no particular rush but by the end of next week would be good, thanks.

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 1:43 p.m.
To: Williams, David
Cc: TeamMedia; Preece, Dewi
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Apologies. One amend.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 1:40 pm
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

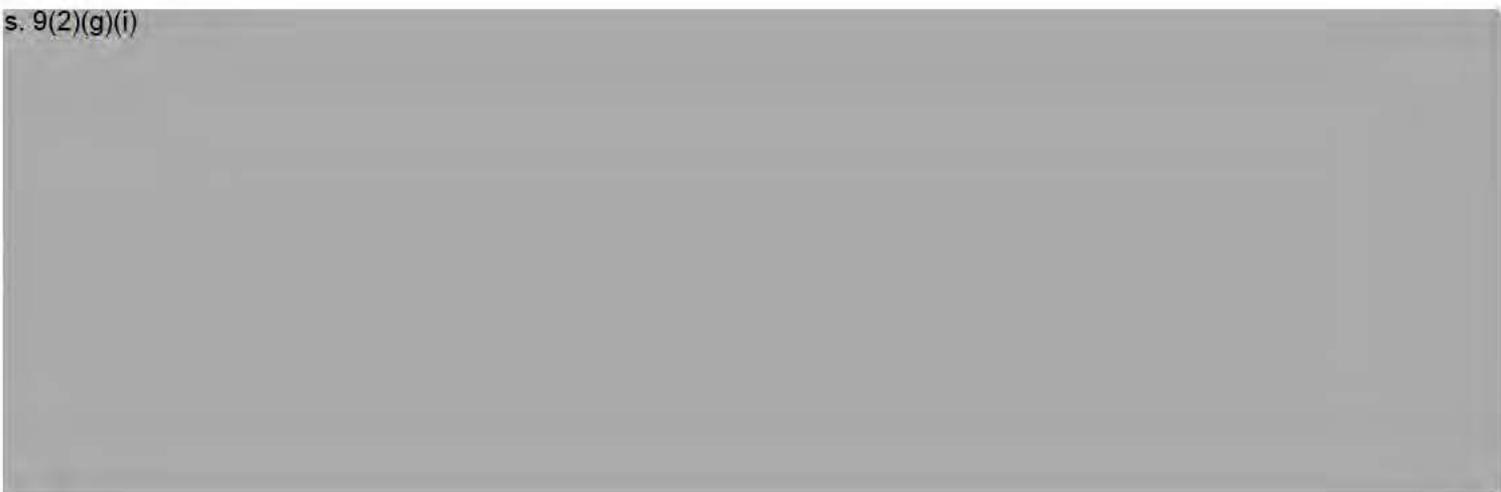
Fine to go when acked.

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 1:28 pm
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:41:28 PM
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Request more than a month overdue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to spam@nzdf.mil.nz and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

Hi there,

I've not heard back on this request. Could somebody please advise when I will?

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:28 am
To: media@nzdf.mil.nz <media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

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It involves the leaking of NZDF documents, apparently by serving NZDF personnel, used by a conspiracy "influencers" to frame NZDF as being part of a culture war.

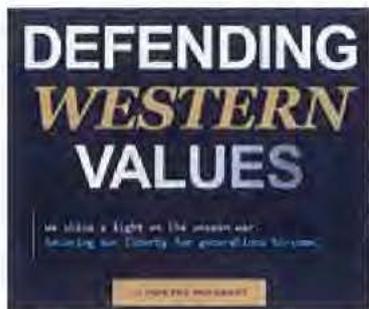
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That's got to be a very uncomfortable mix for NZDF (and probably one I'll write about). Having active members who will pass on training information on the basis they are "defending Western values" by highlighting NZ's secret war against Christians is concerning.

NZDF has previously identified isolated cases where personnel engaged with far-right or extremist ideologies and has treated those situations as security risks. It should be said there has been no evidence of widespread or institutionalised ideological capture.

Could you please come back to me on this? There is no particular rush but by the end of next week would be good, thanks.

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: Hayward, Paul, COL
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 1:47 p.m.
To: Preece, Dewi
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Ack, easy.

COL Paul Hayward
Assistant Chief of Army (Training)/G7, Army General Staff
Ngāti Tūmataunga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 1:46 pm
To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k)
Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: s. 9(2)(a); Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843

Internal: 3497296

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Preece, Dewi

Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 4:22 pm

To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k)

Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: s. 9(2)(a); Army GS s. 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Thanks Paul. Confirming as per the other chat that what you've recommended adding is in addition to the previous draft, which then means the response becomes:

Hamish – are you comfortable with the below?

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 3:35 pm
To: Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k); Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a); Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



From: Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 13:35
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a); Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Ack I will leave this for Paul to respond when able.

s. 9(2)(a)

Executive Officer AGS / Temp EA to DCA
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA
NZ ARMY

From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 1:13 pm

To: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army
s. 9(2)(k)

Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Thanks s. 9(2)(a)

So I think the intent had been for that same OIA response to also cover the Fisher query (which was not an OIA) but I don't think that was actioned separately.

Fisher's queries are in essence much simpler, so a short response drafted below. The red portion is what is lifted from the already published OIA response.

Can Paul/DCA please review and say if we're happy with the below?

Min Svcs – have kept you in the loop for viz of this, but will drop you out of the thread as it progresses.

Apologies a response didn't come back to you sooner on this one – it got caught up with a separate and concurrent OIA on the same issue, which you can find published here: [XXX \(link\)](#)

The NZ Army was made aware of this towards the end of last year.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



The Army always takes any leak of information seriously and conducts investigations where necessary.

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843

Internal: 3497296

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 1:05 pm
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Kia ora Dewi

In response to your email, Below was our response sent to Min Svcs on 4 Feb.

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 8:55 am
To: Ministerial Services ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Deputy Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k); s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Army reply: OIA-2025-5622 / MIN-2026-0217 / MIN-2026-0129 (Training Environment) [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

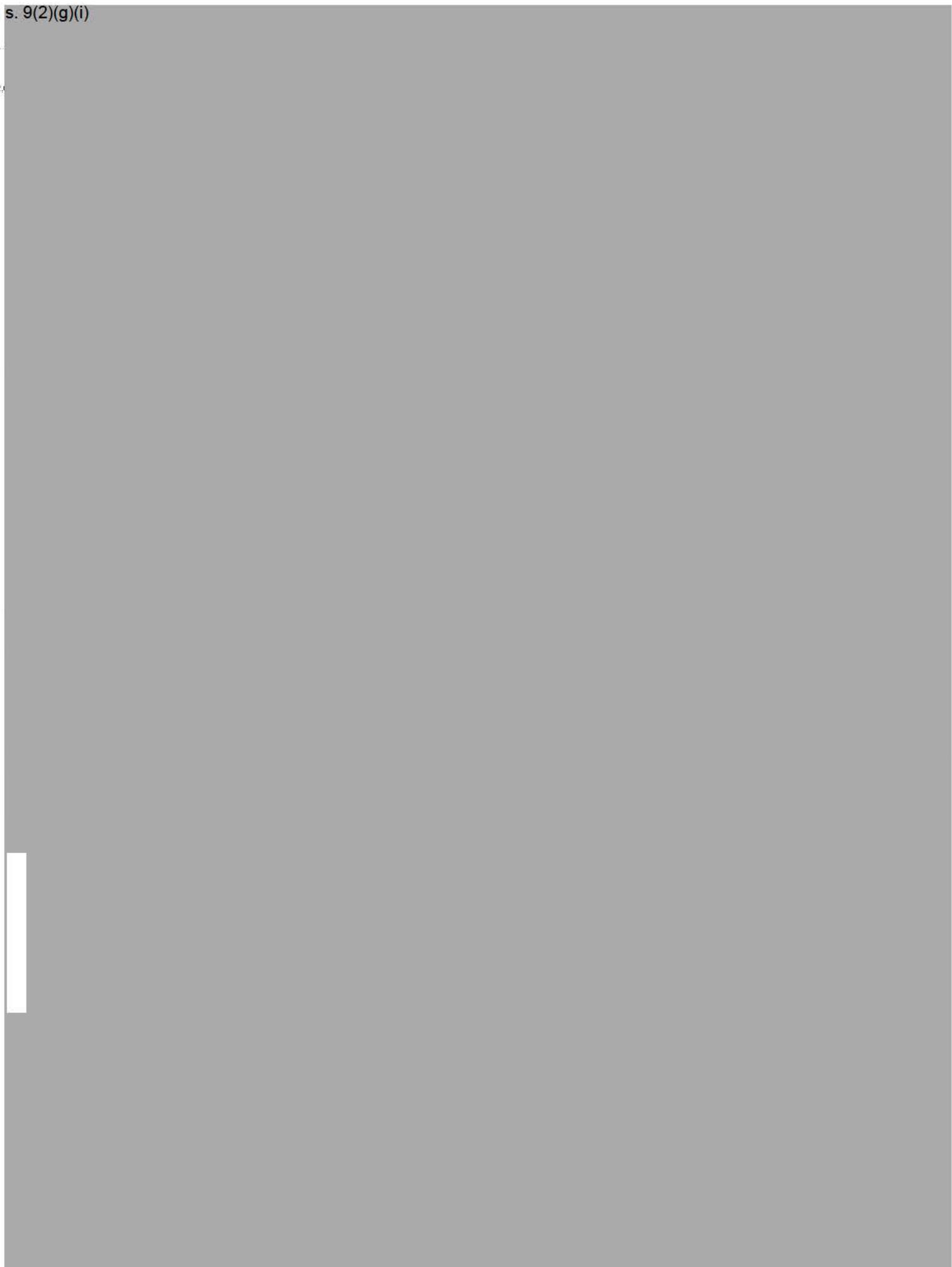
UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Please find below the Army's drafted response regarding the Burnham training scenario. I believe this response addresses the following matters: OIA-2025-5622, MIN-2026-0217, and MIN-2026-0129.

If you require any further information or clarification, please let me know.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



s. 9(2)(g)(i)



s. 9(2)(a)

Executive Officer AGS / Temp EA to DCA
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 18 February 2026 1:00 pm

To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a); Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Kia ora all,

Can I please check whether this was the final version of the response that got sent out as part of OIA-2025-5622?

We also had a similar, but slightly different set of questions from David Fisher on the same topic, and unsure if the intent was for the same response to be sent to both?

Otherwise I'm happy to look at the below version, and tailor it for Fisher's query and send that around for a final QC

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 3:45 pm
To: Army GS s. 9(2)(k)
Cc: s. 9(2)(a); Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Gibbons, Hamish, BRIG s. 9(2)(a); Chief of Army s. 9(2)(k); Preece, Dewi
<Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Fw: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi s. 9(2)(a)

Final AGS draft response to this OIA around training scenarios please.

ACA(T)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



From: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 3:24 pm

To: Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k) s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi Ed,

All understood, and I am happy with your suggested amendment.

Regards

BRIG Jason Dyhrberg, DSD

Land Component Comd - HQJFNZ, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 2:45 pm

To: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a); Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Sir,

I've spoken with G7 and I understand he's also spoken to you, which may make this moot.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Regards

Ed

Colonel Edward Crow
Commander, Army Training Group

Officer in Charge, Waiouru Defence Area
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA
NZ ARMY

From: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 11:31 am
To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi Paul,

My only suggested modification is highlighted in yellow below – s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Regards

BRIG Jason Dyhrberg, DSD
Land Component Comd - HQJFNZ, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 9(2)(a)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 11:23 am
To: Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k); Craw, Edward, COL s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Hi Gents, could you please check my updated response before I release to Min Svcs to respond to this OIA.
s. 9(2)(g)(i)



s. 9(2)(g)(i)



From: Army GS s. 9(2)(k) 
Sent: Monday, 26 January 2026 8:21 pm
To: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a) 
Cc: Army GS s. 9(2)(k) 
Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 ; Do we have COMD clearance to release to back to MINISTERIALS

Sir,

Do we have COMD Clearance to release this back to Ministerials as ARMY's reply to the questions (below your answers)

Bernie Grant

Army General Staff, Chief of Staff

Working location; Defence House

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Hayward, Paul, COL s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 23 January 2026 2:29 pm

To: s. 9(2)(a)

Cc: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; Army GS s. 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: DRAFT REPLY against OIA-2025-5622 DCA guidance this morning, answering Dewi's query ;

Importance: High

Gents, is my draft statement factually correct?

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Kind Regards

COL Paul Hayward

Assistant Chief of Army (Training)/G7, Army General Staff
Ngāti Tūmatauenga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



“

Question
1. <i>How widely is this General Idea with this enemy scenario used? i.e. what units and courses use it?</i>
2. <i>When and by whom was this enemy scenario developed?</i>
3. <i>When and by whom was this enemy scenario approved?</i>
4. <i>Why does this enemy scenario differ from the DATE-P scenarios generally used by NZ Army?</i>
5. <i>What other current training documents within the NZDF use an enemy based on Christians or people with traditional</i>
6. <i>Given that fictional enemy scenarios are typically built upon actual or likely adversaries does the NZDF assess Christia</i>

7. *What, if any, communication has occurred from senior leadership directing alignment to Christians or people with tra*

8. *What, if any, communication has been provided from government or other government agencies on Christic*

Ministerial Services

From: Williams, David
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 9:37 a.m.
To: Mason, Alex; Preece, Dewi
Cc: TeamMedia
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

One suggested change from me in green.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 9:34 am
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Ngā mihi,

Alex

Alex Mason (she/her)
Media and Communications Manager - DPA, Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Office: 04 496 0999 **Mobile:** 027 245 5168

www.nzdf.mil.nz

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓	✓	X	✓	✓

X = Please note, I don't work Wednesdays



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From: Mason, Alex
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 7:47 p.m.
To: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Dewi, I think this is a really good starter. My recommendation would be that we revisit this on Monday morning.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Date: Friday, 20 Feb 2026 at 7:36 PM
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Here we go again. Suggested response:

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

A large grey rectangular redaction box covers the majority of the page content below the suggested response line.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force
Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 7:19 pm
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Fw: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 6:22:56 PM
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Re: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

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Hard to know where to start.

If I had known NZDF was intending to treat it as an OIA, I would have made a complaint to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act over misuse of the OIA and raised it with NZDF at the time.

It was not an OIA. It could not have been, in law, an OIA because it asked for information (answers) that did not exist at the time of asking.

Those answers have not been provided. They were around what security risk exists when NZDF has personnel that will leak material to the conspiracy community.

That's actually a serious question. It doesn't take a great intelligence analyst to realise it is a risk having people inside NZDF who subscribe to radical ideologies.

It hasn't been addressed and I would like it addressed and I don't really know how to do that reasonably or sensibly because requests get delayed, misinterpreted or just lost.

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 2:15 pm
To: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora David,

Apologies a response didn't come back to you sooner on this one – it got caught up with a separate and concurrent OIA on the same issue, which you can find published here and which provides further context to your query:

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/OIA-2025-5622-OIA-2026-5635-Training-Information.pdf>

We acknowledge that the assignment of a specific religion, ethnicity, or religious values to our training actors risks unintentionally causing offence to these groups; and that when they are used, we have a responsibility to not cast undue aspersions. The use of these attributes in a training environment is neutral as their purpose is solely to reflect the complexity of the real-world populations that our soldiers may encounter on operations.

The Army always takes any leak of information seriously and conducts investigations where necessary.

This may be attributed to an NZDF spokesperson if required.

Ngā mihi

Dave Williams

Senior Communications Advisor - Defence Public Affairs

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 925 745

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:41:28 PM
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Request more than a month overdue

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Hi there,

I've not heard back on this request. Could somebody please advise when I will?

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

From: David Fisher
Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:28 am
To: media@nzdf.mil.nz <media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

Hi there,

I'm wanting to know if NZDF is aware of the following and, if so, what it is doing about it.

It involves the leaking of NZDF documents, apparently by serving NZDF personnel, used by a conspiracy "influencers" to frame NZDF as being part of a culture war.

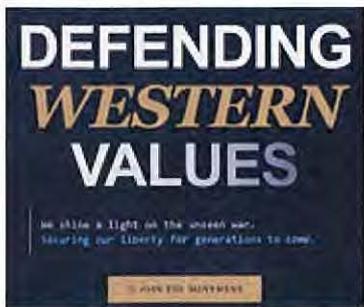
This clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Rfx-FuREE8>) features two "influencers" from the conspiracy community talking about being leaked training plans by members of NZDF.

The content of that is in the video. It appears to be sourced from the following.



The training plan is a fairly standard 5E scenario for an exercise.

It's the interpretation that has been placed on the scenario, the attribution of the leak to the United We Stand (<https://www.unitedwestand.nz/>) group, and the way that group is now framing itself on its website as: "Defending Western Values - We shine a light on the unseen war. Securing our liberty for generations to come."



The video highlights the scenario posing the opposing force as "extremist Christians" and that there are Islamic friendlies.

The language used in the video and by United We Stand would appear to be strongly associated with modern culture-war rhetoric.

It frames political and social disagreements as a civilisational struggle in which "the West" is portrayed as a unified cultural entity under threat.

It goes down some strange rabbit holes. There's reference in the material to Route Rainbow being vulnerable to attack. The influencers seize on the rainbow flag as a signal to the gay and trans community.

That's got to be a very uncomfortable mix for NZDF (and probably one I'll write about). Having active members who will pass on training information on the basis they are "defending Western values" by highlighting NZ's secret war against Christians is concerning.

NZDF has previously identified isolated cases where personnel engaged with far-right or extremist ideologies and has treated those situations as security risks. It should be said there has been no evidence of widespread or institutionalised ideological capture.

Could you please come back to me on this? There is no particular rush but by the end of next week would be good, thanks.

David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: Mason, Alex
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 10:59 a.m.
To: s. 9(2)(g)(i); Williams, David
Cc: TeamMedia; Preece, Dewi; Shepherd, Sam; s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

Ack, but we confused him – and we need to un-confuse him. Also, he didn't ask us a question, so it's pertinent to point that out to him.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Ngā mihi,

Alex

Alex Mason (she/her)
Media and Communications Manager - DPA, Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Office: 04 496 0999 **Mobile:** 027 245 5168

www.nzdf.mil.nz

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓	✓	✗	✓	✓

X = Please note, I don't work Wednesdays



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From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 10:56 a.m.
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a); s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

See my amends below. Happy to talk further about them if anyone objects.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 9:43 am
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Proposed response to Mr Fisher from his Friday complaint:

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 6:22:56 PM
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Re: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

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Ngā mihi

Dave Williams

Senior Communications Advisor - Defence Public Affairs

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 925 745

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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UNCLASSIFIED

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Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:41:28 PM

To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: Request more than a month overdue

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NZ Herald

021347154

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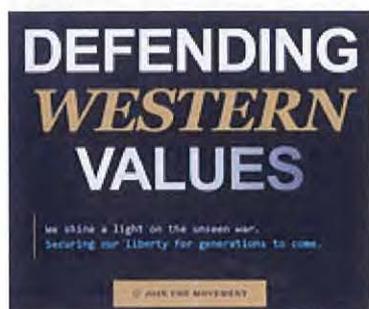
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David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: Mason, Alex
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 12:50 p.m.
To: s. 9(2)(g)(i); Williams, David
Cc: TeamMedia; Preece, Dewi; s. 9(2)(a); s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

s. 9(2)(g)(i), as discussed.

Kia ora David,

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 6:22:56 PM
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Re: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

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UNCLASSIFIED

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Ngā mihi

Dave Williams

Senior Communications Advisor - Defence Public Affairs

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 925 745

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:41:28 PM

To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: Request more than a month overdue

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Hi there,

I've not heard back on this request. Could somebody please advise when I will?

David Fisher

NZ Herald

021347154

From: David Fisher
Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:28 am
To: media@nzdf.mil.nz <media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

Hi there,

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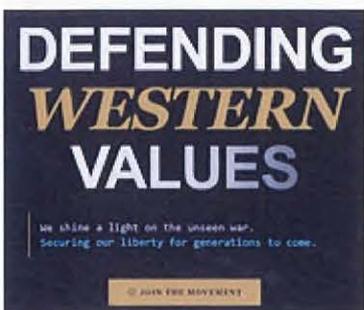
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NZDF has previously identified isolated cases where personnel engaged with far-right or extremist ideologies and has treated those situations as security risks. It should be said there has been no evidence of widespread or institutionalised ideological capture.

Could you please come back to me on this? There is no particular rush but by the end of next week would be good, thanks.

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NZ Herald
021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: Preece, Dewi
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:01 p.m.
To: Williams, David; Mason, Alex
Cc: TeamMedia
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

Suggested tweak

Dewi Preece

Public Affairs Manager – Army | Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 919 843
Internal: 3497296
www.nzdf.mil.nz



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
✓	✓			✓

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 1:42 pm
To: Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

How does this look?

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

UNCLASSIFIED

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Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 925 745

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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UNCLASSIFIED

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NZ Herald

021347154

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Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

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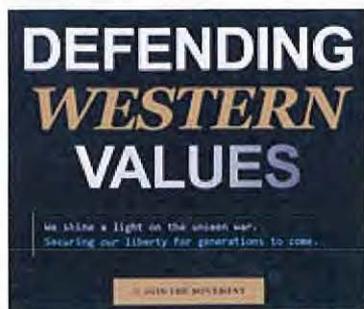
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021347154

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Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:21 p.m.
To: Mason, Alex; Williams, David
Cc: TeamMedia; Preece, Dewi; s. 9(2)(a); s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

This can go Alex. s. 9(2)(g)(i)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 12:54 pm
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i); Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a) s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UPDATE from s. 9(2)(g)(i) to reflect that we sent DF two OIA responses.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

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Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 925 745

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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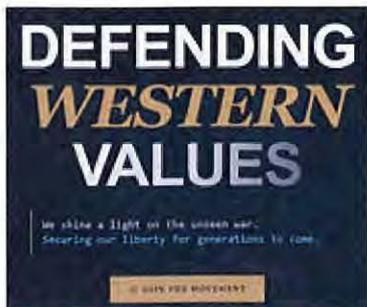
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Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 3:09 p.m.
To: Mason, Alex; Williams, David
Cc: TeamMedia; Preece, Dewi
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:39 pm
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i); Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

This is it, the full response.

From: s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:37 p.m.
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Ok. Could you send me a full complete revised response please and ill sort it.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:36 pm
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

It adds to it. Keeps the first line from s. 9(2)(g)(i) and then adds the rest to address his question about how we looked into the leak and his general complaint that we didn't answer any of his "questions".

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:33 pm
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Sorry, does this replace, or add to the email from Alex to me at 12.54pm entitled "UPDATE from s. 9(2)(g)(i)" ?

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 2:25 pm
To: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Cc: TeamMedia <TeamMedia@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s. 9(2)(g)(i)
As discussed, Fisher rang during your stand-up meeting with a specific query about us investigating the leak and I said we'd get back to him with at least something. s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Dave

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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David Fisher
NZ Herald
021347154

From: David Fisher
Sent: Thursday, 8 January 2026 11:28 am
To: media@nzdf.mil.nz <media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: NZ Herald - NZDF training materials leaked to conspiracy influencers

Hi there,

I'm wanting to know if NZDF is aware of the following and, if so, what it is doing about it.

It involves the leaking of NZDF documents, apparently by serving NZDF personnel, used by a conspiracy "influencers" to frame NZDF as being part of a culture war.

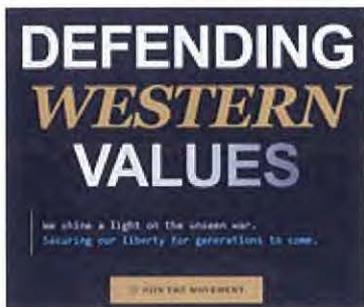
This clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Rfx-FuREE8>) features two "influencers" from the conspiracy community talking about being leaked training plans by members of NZDF.

The content of that is in the video. It appears to be sourced from the following.



The training plan is a fairly standard 5E scenario for an exercise.

It's the interpretation that has been placed on the scenario, the attribution of the leak to the United We Stand (<https://www.unitedwestand.nz/>) group, and the way that group is now framing itself on its website as: "Defending Western Values - We shine a light on the unseen war. Securing our liberty for generations to come."



The video highlights the scenario posing the opposing force as "extremist Christians" and that there are Islamic friendlies.

The language used in the video and by United We Stand would appear to be strongly associated with modern culture-war rhetoric.

It frames political and social disagreements as a civilisational struggle in which "the West" is portrayed as a unified cultural entity under threat.

It goes down some strange rabbit holes. There's reference in the material to Route Rainbow being vulnerable to attack. The influencers seize on the rainbow flag as a signal to the gay and trans community.

That's got to be a very uncomfortable mix for NZDF (and probably one I'll write about). Having active members who will pass on training information on the basis they are "defending Western values" by highlighting NZ's secret war against Christians is concerning.

NZDF has previously identified isolated cases where personnel engaged with far-right or extremist ideologies and has treated those situations as security risks. It should be said there has been no evidence of widespread or institutionalised ideological capture.

Could you please come back to me on this? There is no particular rush but by the end of next week would be good, thanks.

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Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 4:59 p.m.
To: s. 9(2)(g)(i) s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a) Motley, Grant, BRIG;
s. 9(2)(a) Vale, Tony; Dalglish, Samantha; Williams, David;
Eden, Sue; Hall, Tracy; Preece, Dewi; s. 9(2)(a)
Mason, Alex
Subject: RE: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s. 9(2)(g)(i)

From: s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(g)(i)
Sent: Monday, 23 February 2026 4:34 PM
To: s. 9(2)(a)
; Motley, Grant, BRIG
s. 9(2)(a)
Vale, Tony <TONY.VALE@nzdf.mil.nz>; Dalglish, Samantha <Samantha.Dalglish@nzdf.mil.nz>; Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>; Eden, Sue <Susan.Eden@nzdf.mil.nz>; Hall, Tracy <Tracy.Hall@nzdf.mil.nz>; Preece, Dewi <Dewi.Preece@nzdf.mil.nz>; s. 9(2)(a)
; Mason, Alex
<Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Going to NZ Herald.

Kia ora David,

You appear to have misinterpreted the first line of our response. Your media query has not been treated as an OIA – other individuals had submitted separate requests under the OIA, which we have subsequently provided to you so you have further context on the subject.

In your original query, your sole question relating to “leaks” appears to lie in this statement: *“That's got to be a very uncomfortable mix for NZDF (and probably one I'll write about). Having active members who will pass on training information on the basis they are "defending Western values" by highlighting NZ's secret war against Christians is concerning.”*

We addressed this in our reply:

“The Army always takes any leak of information seriously and conducts investigations where necessary.”

In this case, no formal investigation proceedings were deemed to be required.

We do not have a comment to provide on your unsubstantiated claim that the NZDF has people in its organisation “who subscribe to radical ideologies”.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 6:22:56 PM
To: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Re: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to spam@nzdf.mil.nz and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

Hard to know where to start.

If I had known NZDF was intending to treat it as an OIA, I would have made a complaint to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act over misuse of the OIA and raised it with NZDF at the time.

It was not an OIA. It could not have been, in law, an OIA because it asked for information (answers) that did not exist at the time of asking.

Those answers have not been provided. They were around what security risk exists when NZDF has personnel that will leak material to the conspiracy community.

That's actually a serious question. It doesn't take a great intelligence analyst to realise it is a risk having people inside NZDF who subscribe to radical ideologies.

It hasn't been addressed and I would like it addressed and I don't really know how to do that reasonably or sensibly because requests get delayed, misinterpreted or just lost.

From: Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 2:15 pm
To: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: FW: Request more than a month overdue [UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora David,

Apologies a response didn't come back to you sooner on this one – it got caught up with a separate and concurrent OIA on the same issue, which you can find published here and which provides further context to your query:

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/OIA-2025-5622-OIA-2026-5635-Training-Information.pdf>

We acknowledge that the assignment of a specific religion, ethnicity, or religious values to our training actors risks unintentionally causing offence to these groups; and that when they are used, we have a responsibility to not cast undue aspersions. The use of these attributes in a training environment is neutral as their purpose is solely to reflect the complexity of the real-world populations that our soldiers may encounter on operations.

The Army always takes any leak of information seriously and conducts investigations where necessary.

This may be attributed to an NZDF spokesperson if required.

Ngā mihi

Dave Williams

Senior Communications Advisor - Defence Public Affairs

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: 021 925 745

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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UNCLASSIFIED

From: David Fisher <David.Fisher@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:41:28 PM
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Request more than a month overdue

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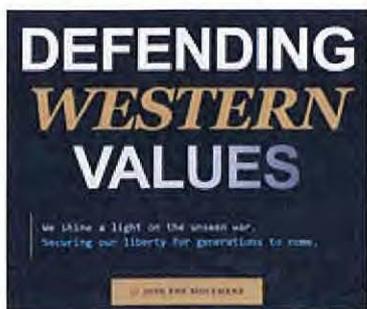
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