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OIA-2026-5704

10th April 2026

[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 6 March 2026, seeking information about New Zealand Defence Force interactions with partners. The following parts of your request have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and are addressed below.

- *What is the nature of Defence's tech and data sharing within these partnerships (which include Five Eyes partner countries)?*
- *Under what legal, policy and human rights controls has that sharing been taking place?*
- *How does NZDF exercise such controls when sharing its own data in tests and experiments of integrated networks with partners, such as at Convergence 26?*
- *Re the 'NZDF battle management system' <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/kiwi-drones-boost-defence-capability> what controls does Defence have about how this system interacts with US systems?*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has complete control over what information is shared with U.S. systems through the NZDF battle management system, directed by NZDF communication policy and sharing protocols. These are guided by the specific New Zealand exercise or operational directive that is applicable for the type of activity being conducted.

When 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 and are based on the need to exchange information. 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).

- *For Convergence 2026, how many personnel is Defence intending to send and will they be active participants or observers? Is NZDF planning to have a role at Con 26 in testing / developing AI/emerging tech targeting systems?*

Current planning is to send approximately 50 personnel in a variety of positions. Active participants will be operating Remote Ground Vehicles and Unmanned Aerial Systems, some participants will be observing experiential training, and others will support NZDF personnel

through various exercise control roles. One of the Unmanned Aerial Systems is a test of autonomous terminal guidance with a human operator/decision maker.

- *Is NZDF taking a role in testing or developing systems from Palantir? What (Gotham?) and how?*

No.

In accordance with section 28(3) of the OIA, you may ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. 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.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF