



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

OIA-2026-5708

15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 14 March 2026 requesting *'the tonnage of dated munitions stored in the underground bunkers/tunnels in the North Head / Naval Base area'*. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has investigated claims of hidden tunnels located in North Head/Maungauika containing various items, including munitions. No evidence has ever been found. There are three sealed tunnels, which are not hidden, located behind the gun pit and easily accessible. These tunnels were investigated in the 1990s and found to be empty. They do not contain ammunition or any other equipment.

The NZDF is no longer a custodian of North Head and no additional information is held by the NZDF. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(g) 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](http://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