



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

OIA-2026-5721

13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 18 March 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information related to *the protected disclosure framework referenced in Defence Force Order 70, Chapter 8*. The various parts of your request are addressed below.

1. *A copy of the protected disclosure register maintained by the Inspector-General of Defence, as referenced in Defence Force Order 70, Chapter 8, section 8021.*
2. *If the register cannot be released in full due to confidentiality concerns, please provide a redacted or anonymised version, including at minimum:*
  - *the date each disclosure was received*
  - *the general category of wrongdoing alleged*
  - *the organisational unit or command involved*
  - *the outcome or resolution of the disclosure*

The Office of the Inspector General (Defence) maintains the protected disclosure register for the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). A copy of the register is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of individuals.

The register contains a total of seven protected disclosures between June 2010 and May 2025. The general descriptions of the alleged matters disclosed include inappropriate relationships, false statements, HR matters, probity issues, gross mismanagement, misuse of public resources, serious breaches of professional standards, public integrity risk, fraud, inappropriate use of NZDF funds and equipment, inappropriate behaviour, medical misconduct, and corruption.

Within the NZDF, the register is only required to detail the location of the disclosure, the nature of the disclosure, and the resolution. It does not contain detail relating to the organisational unit or command involved. Of the seven disclosures: one was rejected; one was deemed to have not met the threshold of serious wrongdoing; one resulted in disciplinary action; one resulted in the issuance of a letter of expectation; one resulted in a finding of no misconduct; one resulted in an inconclusive finding; and the investigation into one disclosure was stopped following employee resignation.

3. *Documentation describing:*

- *the system or database used to maintain the protected disclosure register*
- *the record-keeping policy governing that register*
- *any retention or disposal authorities applying to these records*

The Office of the Inspector General (Defence) maintains the protected disclosure register as a standalone document on the NZDF platform approved to store records that are classified as restricted or below.

Defence Force Order 70, Defence Force Orders for Official Information, contains the policy governing the protected disclosure register. Defence Force Instruction 7.2 Official Information contains the NZDF policies and procedures for the management of official information and personal information in accordance with legislation, governmental direction and NZDF policies. These instructions also address the requirement to retain and dispose of official information pursuant to the Public Records Act 2005.

Civilian personnel records are covered by the relevant sub-classes in General Disposal Authorities (GDA) 6 and 7, which are issued by Archives New Zealand. Military personnel files are specifically excluded from coverage by GDA 6. This is why there is a specific class being prepared for Disposal Authority 710 (DA710).

DA710 legally authorises the disposal of eight (of nine) classes of core NZDF business records. An amendment to introduce the ninth class of core NZDF business records will be called 'Class 9 Military Personnel Records', and will only apply to those types of records. Until the Chief Archivist approves the amendment of DA710 to include Class 9 military personnel records, there is no legal way to dispose of these types of records.

4. *Any internal audits, reviews, or assessments conducted since 2011 relating to:*

- *NZDF's protected disclosure processes*
- *record-keeping practices associated with those disclosures*

Despite all reasonable efforts, no information relevant to this aspect of your request was located. As a result, your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the information does not exist or cannot be found. The protected disclosure policy contained in DFO 70 is currently under review.

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