



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

OIA-2026-5767

8th
May 2026



Dear 

I refer to your email of 13 April 2026, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) *the following information, relating to the origin and meaning of "Five Eyes" military cooperation (not to be confused with the Five Eyes intelligence cooperation).*

- 1. When did the NZDF begin to use the phrase "Five Eyes" to describe military cooperation between the US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand?*
- 2. Where and in what context did this name begin to be used?*
- 3. Please provide copies of documents describing and giving approval for this name being used.*
- 4. Did the use of this name signify a new agreement between these five countries and, if so, please provide copies of the agreement and documents describing the new agreement.*
- 5. If not, why did the name start to be used.*

It is not possible to identify the point in time when the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) began to use the term "Five Eyes". A substantial research and collation effort would be required to locate, identify, and consider for release any relevant documentation. Use of the term by the NZDF is not the result of *a new agreement between these five countries*, it reflects the five countries grouping who cooperate closely on matters of intelligence and national security.

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 with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF