



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
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Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5836

30th June

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [@massey.ac.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@massey.ac.nz)

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request which was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) on 4 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

“NZDF attended Massey University on the 1st of May to destroy some degraded chemicals via controlled explosions. Massey was not left with a record of the substances destroyed. My request is for the NZDF attendance report and details of the substances, i.e. amounts, destroyed.”

On 1 May New Zealand Police requested the NZDF assist with the disposal of hazardous substances identified in Massey University Aghort Building C, Palmerston North.

The NZDF removed seven bottles deemed too hazardous for commercial waste management. Exact quantities of hazardous substances were not able to be obtained due to extensive explosive salt crystallisation on the bottle caps. Seven bottles were removed for disposal by detonation. Six were perchloric acid, and one was periodic acid.

Further specific details, including a copy of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Task Unit report, are withheld in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(d) of the OIA as release would be likely to prejudice the security and defence of New Zealand, and endanger public safety.

Multiple bottles in a safe state were removed by commercial waste management. The NZDF does not hold any information on these items.

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 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