



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

OIA-2026-5840

31st July 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 9 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all information held by the New Zealand Defence Force relating to Non-Disclosure Agreements, confidentiality agreements, or settlement agreements entered into in connection with PFAS contamination at and around RNZAF Base Ōhakea. Specifically, I request:*

1. The total number of Non-Disclosure Agreements, confidentiality agreements, or settlement agreements entered into between the New Zealand Defence Force and landowners, residents, or other affected parties in relation to PFAS contamination at Base Ōhakea, from 2015 to the date of this request.

As such agreements are subject to an obligation of confidence, and your request relates to an identifiable cohort, this information is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba) of the OIA.

2. The general scope and terms of those agreements - including whether they prevent signatories from discussing health impacts, land contamination, financial settlements, or any other matters relating to PFAS at Base Ōhakea - without identifying specific individuals (redact where necessary).

3. Any internal New Zealand Defence Force policy, legal advice, or guidance documents relating to the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements or confidentiality clauses in PFAS contamination settlements or land purchases.

4. Any New Zealand Defence Force records of landowner property purchases in the Ōhakea PFAS-contaminated zone from 2017 to the date of this request, and whether confidentiality agreements formed part of those transactions.

5. Any advice received by the New Zealand Defence Force from the Crown Law Office regarding the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements or confidentiality agreements in PFAS contamination matters.

These parts of your request concern information that is both legally privileged and confidential. It is therefore withheld in accordance with sections 9(2)(h) and 9(2)(ba) of the OIA.

The withholding of information is not outweighed by the public interest in this instance.

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