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New Zealand Defence Force
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OIA-2026-5851

30th June 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 16 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Copies of all documents, briefings, reports, or policy material held by the Ministry of Defence and/or New Zealand Defence Force that define or describe Directed Level of Capability (DLOC) for Special Operations Forces, including how it is set, measured, and reported.

All annual or periodic reporting for the last five financial years setting out:

- a. DLOC targets for Special Operations Forces; and*
- b. whether those targets were achieved, partially achieved, or not achieved.*

Any variance reports, readiness assessments, or internal reporting provided to Ministers or senior leadership that explain deviations between Directed Level of Capability and actual readiness or force availability for Special Operations Forces.

Any documents, briefings, or advice describing the relationship between DLOC settings for Special Operations Forces and:

- a. funding allocations or baseline budgets;*
- b. workforce numbers, training cycles, or operational availability;*
- c. any changes in funding or resource levels resulting from changes to DLOC settings.*

Any guidance, methodology documents, or internal instructions used by NZDF or the Ministry of Defence to determine or assess Directed Level of Capability for Special Operations Forces.

The release of the information you are seeking would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand as it relates directly to the capability of the New Zealand Defence Force. Consequently, your request is declined under section 6(a) 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 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