



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

OIA-2026-5879

29th July 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 13 July 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information concerning counter uncrewed aerial systems:

1. Please provide the current status of the CUAS capability project, including
 - * project name or programme name;
 - * responsible agency or agencies;
 - * current phase;
 - * approval status;
 - * business-case status;
 - * funding status;
 - * expected next decision point;
 - * indicative procurement timeline;
 - * expected market approach date, if any;
 - * expected delivery or initial operating capability date, if held.
2. Please provide any project initiation documents, investment logic maps, capability definition documents, procurement strategies, market research summaries, options assessments, Ministerial briefings, aide-memoires, Cabinet papers, or senior leadership briefings relating to the CUAS capability.
3. Please provide any records identifying suppliers, systems, technologies or countries considered, demonstrated, trialled, shortlisted, discussed or otherwise engaged with for the CUAS capability.
4. For each supplier, system, trial, demonstration, request for information, request for proposal, market-sounding exercise, proof of concept or evaluation, please provide where held:
 - * supplier name;
 - * system or product name;
 - * country of origin;
 - * capability area;
 - * whether the engagement related to detection, tracking, identification, electronic defeat, kinetic defeat, directed energy, jamming, spoofing, cyber effects, command-and-control integration, training, sustainment, drone-as-interceptor, or another category;
 - * value or value band;
 - * dates;
 - * current status;
 - * intended next step.
5. Please provide any documents discussing whether the CUAS capability is intended primarily for:
 - * deployed operations;
 - * protection of camps and bases;

- * protection of airbases or aviation facilities;*
- * protection of naval vessels or ports;*
- * public events or domestic security support;*
- * exercises and training;*
- * overseas deployments;*
- * support to other New Zealand agencies.*

6. Please provide any non-sensitive documents discussing legal, policy or operational constraints on the use of CUAS capabilities in New Zealand or overseas, including any discussion of when NZDF may detect, track, identify, jam, take control of, disable or otherwise defeat unauthorised UAS.

7. Please provide any documents discussing lessons from Ukraine, the Middle East, the Red Sea, Australia, Five Eyes partners, NATO partners, or other recent conflicts and exercises in relation to CUAS procurement or capability development.

8. Please identify any New Zealand companies, subcontractors, systems integrators, training providers, maintenance providers or research organisations involved or being considered for CUAS work, including the scope and value or value band of any local workshare where held.

9. If exact operational details, technical specifications, supplier rankings or live procurement details are withheld, please provide:

- * document titles;*
- * dates;*
- * authors or authoring units;*
- * recipients;*
- * non-sensitive summaries;*
- * value bands;*
- * the specific withholding grounds relied on.*

10. Have any gauntlet style competitions been held in order to test CUAS systems? Are any being planned? If so, please provide a summary.

11. What consideration is being given to allied interoperability with regards to CUAS systems? Is any exploration of parallel procurement with Australia being undertaken?

This Military Counter Uncrewed Aircraft Systems project is currently under Cabinet consideration; associated information is therefore withheld for the time being in accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA. Once Cabinet has made a decision, the Cabinet material will be considered for proactive release. Documents concerning the specifics and purposes of the capability are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA. Documents concerning lessons from recent conflicts and our partners were provided to the New Zealand Defence Force on a basis of confidence and remain classified. They are withheld in full in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b) 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