



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

18<sup>th</sup> August 2026

OIA-2026-5899

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 22 July 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning *Certificate of title no 4771 - 742.22 hectares, Lake Tekapo*.

- *The above land was transferred to Ngai Tahu on 29:05:2001 at 2.18 pm. It was on-sold by Ngai Tahu to Air Safaris on 29:05:2001 at 2.18 for \$175,000.*
- *Some years earlier Air Safaris offered the Crown \$250,000 for 4 hectares of land on the same title reference. The New Zealand Defence Force (Defence) gave a written undertaking to assist Air Safaris in their desire to purchase from Ngai Tahu (I have a copy of that document). Why did Defence do this?*
- *What, if any purchase price did Ngai Tahu pay Defence or the Crown for this land?*

There was a statutory obligation for the Crown to offer the land to Ngai Tahu pursuant to the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1990. Information about any purchase price will be publicly available<sup>1</sup>. As such, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA.

With respect to any New Zealand Defence Force involvement in the purchase by Air Safaris, despite repeated requests to provide a copy of the document you hold, no response has been received. Once a copy is received by the Defence Force, a response to this part of your request can be considered.

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](http://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

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://lrs.linz.govt.nz/search/>