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OIA-2026-5904

13th August 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 23 July 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), regarding CAB-26-MIN-0151 – Modernised Army Training Capability Programme – Recruit Training Capability. The various parts of your request are addressed below.

- *What is meant by the statement that “Australian designs will be used where possible”?*

This statement refers to a broad intent by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to establish common infrastructure design in recruit training facilities, where feasible and applicable, to enable interoperability between armies. The NZDF is seeking to review Australian designs and, if appropriate, use these as a starting point for the NZDF's processes. Australia is viewed as a modern benchmark for training infrastructure. New Zealand Recruit Training infrastructure dates back to the 1940s, whereas Australia has far more modern facilities and is about to undertake additional redevelopment based on modern user requirements.

- *Am I correct in thinking that the reference to 'Australian designs' relates to the redevelopment of the Australian Army Recruit Training Centre at Kapooka?*

Yes, this is likely, but these designs may not be exclusive to Kapooka.

- *If so, which Kapooka designs, specifications or standard facility types will NZDF adopt?*

The NZDF has not reviewed or made any decisions on infrastructure designs from Kapooka that may be adopted.

- *Will Australian consultants or contractors be retained directly or through New Zealand firms?*

As the project is only in the design phase, this information is unavailable.

- *Does NZDF have access to Australian Defence intellectual property, drawings and cost models?*

The NZDF has requested access to Australian Defence Force designs for the redevelopment of Kapooka.

- *Will Australian safety, accommodation, range and training standards effectively become New Zealand standards?*

The NZDF already uses a large number of safety, training, and range standards in common with the Australian Defence Force. Because NZDF requirements and New Zealand building codes are different, the New Zealand accommodation standards will likely differ from those in Australia.

- *Could using Australian designs restrict competition or favour companies already involved at Kapooka?*

The NZDF intends to run a thorough and fair procurement process.

- *Is New Zealand coordinating construction sequencing, simulation systems or curriculum reform with Australia?*

Construction sequencing is not occurring with Australia. Coordination with training curriculum reform and other simulation systems already occurs as a matter of course under bilateral arrangements.

- *Does "alignment" eventually extend to interoperable or partially common recruit-training programmes?*

Recruit training programmes amongst New Zealand ally and partners already have a large number of common elements. There is no intent to have a fully common recruit training programme with Australia.

Please provide, from 1 January 2025 to the date of this request:

- *A list of - the Australian Defence Force facilities, projects, designs, specifications, standards or design packages being considered for use in the Modernised Army Training Capability Programme.*

Blamey Barracks redevelopment designs, Kapooka, are being considered. Designs have been requested but not received.

- *Records of meetings, workshops, site visits or exchanges with Australian Defence concerning Army recruit-training infrastructure, including the Blamey Barracks/Kapooka redevelopment. A summary or table will suffice.*

Three people visited the Royal Military College Duntroon and 1 Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka, between 8 to 10 June 2026.

- *A list of any arrangements for NZDF to access, licence, modify or use Australian Defence designs or intellectual property.*
- *The names of external consultants, architects, engineers or programme advisers engaged to support the design phase, together with the value and procurement method of each engagement.*
- *Copies of any assessment document related to whether using Australian designs could affect the proposed procurement model, supplier competition, New Zealand industry participation, construction costs or programme timetable.*

These aspects of your request are declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the information does not exist.

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