



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

OIA-2026-5942

14th September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 17 August 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

Which roles in the NZDF or specialised areas require the NZDF staff to identify suspected security threats (persons)?

What is New Zealand's international obligations on identifying and confirming targets in overseas missions?

Has there ever been any incidents of persons being misidentified in missions overseas?

Has there ever been any incidents of persons being killed, however we're found to be the incorrect target?

What international legislation is the NZDF required to follow when targeting targets overseas?

Does the NZDF have ways to identify those with face blindness and classed as super recognisers?

Does the NZDF use super recognisers in policing and security?

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) complies with the New Zealand Government's Protective Security Requirements regarding physical and personnel security. All members of the NZDF who hold a security clearance are required to report all security incidents. A copy of the Manual of Armed Forces Law – Law of Armed Conflict is publicly available on the NZDF website¹. The NZDF conducted a Court of Inquiry into an incident in 2013 involving a suspected civilian casualty. Information relating to this matter will not be released as good reason for withholding the information exists pursuant to sections 6(a) and (b) of the OIA. Information on NZDF security and military policing processes is withheld in accordance with 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.

¹ <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/DM-69-2ed-vol4.pdf>

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