



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

OIA-2026-5999

OIA-2026-5996

13th October 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your emails of 22 September 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning reports of *a New Zealand Defence Force member/chaplain who travelled to Israel as part of the Māori delegation associated with Yifat Goddard in November 2025.*

A Reserve Force Army Chaplain participated in the Māori delegation to Israel in November 2025. The member attended in a private capacity and did not represent the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Given this, the NZDF incurred no costs for their participation.

The member verbally notified colleagues of the invitation to go and completed the standard NZDF overseas travel advisory procedure through their Reserve Unit Security Officer prior to departure.

There is no further information or record in relation to this matter as the member took this travel within their private capacity. Accordingly, those parts of your requests are refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested 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