



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

OIA-2026-5998

13th October 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 September 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *documents relating to the development of New Zealand military concepts of deterrence, with particular reference to the concept described in recent New Zealand Defence Force material as “deterrence by denial of opportunity.”*

I am interested in documents that would help establish and develop the conceptual and theoretical development of this concept, including:

- documents that use, define, discuss, develop, critique, or explain the phrase “deterrence by denial of opportunity”;*
- earlier or precursor work concerned with developing a specifically New Zealand military approach to deterrence, even where that exact phrase is not used;*
- concept papers, doctrine or doctrine-development material, staff papers, research papers, briefing papers, presentations, workshop outputs, studies, or similar material dealing substantively with deterrence by denial, denial of adversary objectives or opportunities, complicating adversary decision-making, cost imposition, or related approaches to military deterrence;*
- documents explaining the intellectual, theoretical, doctrinal, or policy basis from which the eventual concept of “deterrence by denial of opportunity” was derived.*

Deterrence through denial of opportunity is referenced in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Military Strategy¹. The Strategy was informed by a range of documents from the Australian Defence Force, the United Kingdom’s Ministry of Defence, and the United States Department of war. These documents are all available via the organisations’ publically facing websites.

The NZDF is not currently working on deterrence by denial of opportunity doctrine. Deterrence is discussed in NZDDP-D *New Zealand Defence Doctrine*, which is publicly available online². This doctrine largely covers military-strategic and national strategic deterrence.

¹ <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/OIA-2026-5872-Military-Strategy.pdf>

² <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/NZDDP-D-4th-ed.pdf>

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