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

OIA-2026-6002

11th November 2026

s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 27 September 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information *concerning the NATO Aviation Committee meeting hosted by the Royal New Zealand Air Force in Christchurch from 18–20 March 2025, together with associated meetings, seminars and activities.*

The Royal New Zealand Air Force facilitated this North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) meeting. New Zealand's participation on the NATO Aviation Committee rests within its status as a 'partner nation'. As such the formulation, conduct and support of this meeting's program together with all supporting activities was directed and approved by NATO. Beyond a keynote speech prepared for the then Associate Minister of Defence, Hon Chris Penk, the requested information belongs to NATO and the New Zealand Defence Force is not authorised to release it. This is in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b)(ii) of the OIA.

A copy of the aforementioned keynote speech is provided at Enclosure 1.

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.

Yours sincerely

JHR Selwood
Captain, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Associate Minister of Defence Keynote Speech for the Opening of the NATO Aviation Committee Meeting