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

OIA-2026-6029

9th November 2026

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 14 October 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information *concerning the New Zealand Defence Force's Defence Estate and Infrastructure (DEI) division, including its management of external suppliers and the DEI Alliance, between 1 January 2023 and 14 October 2026.*

1. *The number of protected disclosures received concerning DEI leadership, procurement, financial management, conflicts of interest or relationships with external suppliers, as recorded in any existing register or summary.*
2. *Any final findings, recommendations or outcome reports arising from investigations into these matters, excluding information that could identify individuals who made protected disclosures.*
3. *Any final reports or records showing what action NZDF took in response to substantiated concerns or recommendations, including whether corrective actions were completed.*
4. *Any final internal audit or assurance reports concerning DEI procurement, conflicts of interest or financial management during this period.*

The NZDF has records of one protected disclosure concerning DEI leadership, procurement, financial management, conflicts of interest or relationships with external suppliers within the time period of your request.

Inquiries were conducted into the matters raised by this protected disclosure. Due to the nature of the matters and the need to maintain confidentiality, individual reports were not created as part of these inquiries. Instead, the inquiries were conducted by a senior officer within the NZDF and focused on seeking and reviewing material as necessary. The officer reviewed material from multiple assurance sources, both internally and externally, that exist to ensure projects are well managed within the NZDF.

These inquiries determined that there were appropriate levels of oversight with the management of external suppliers. Where assurance sources identified areas for improvement, these improvements had been, or where, in the process of being implemented.

Overall, the inquiries determined that there was no evidence of gross mismanagement within DEI and that the matters raised did not meet the threshold for serious wrongdoing under the Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022 (PDA).

Further details about these inquiries is withheld, under sections 9(2)(a) and (2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, as well as section 18(c)(i) of the OIA and section 19 of the PDA.

The NZDF's internal audit team has reviewed its records and it has not identified any internal audit or assurance reports concerning DEI procurement, conflicts of interest or financial management over the specified period beyond the inquiries detailed above. As no information relevant this part of

your request was located, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

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

JHR Sellwood
Captain, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF