



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

OIA-2021-4086

2 June 2021

Eurisko Bowden
fyi-request-15412-c9e614ef@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Eurisko Bowden

I refer to your email of 9 May 2021 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA),

- 1) *Does NZDF currently have a psychological warfare capability?*
- 2) *Has NZDF ever had a psychological warfare capability?*
- 3) *If yes, under which branch and/or chain of command did/does this sit?*
- 4) *Does NZDF currently have an information warfare capability?*
- 5) *Has NZDF ever had an information warfare capability?*
- 6) *If yes, under which branch and/or chain of command did/does this sit?*
- 7) *Have NZDF personnel ever been involved in the psychological or information warfare capabilities of another nation?*

The 2018 Strategic Defence Policy Statement indicated a need for an uplift in information-related capabilities and the Defence Capability Plan 2019 outlined the plan for achieving this uplift. Many of these capital investments require adjustments to the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) operating model to achieve the benefits stated in these two documents. Consequently, the NZDF is developing options for how it will raise, train, sustain, command, control and coordinate these information-related capability uplifts.

Further information regarding these capabilities concerns NZDF operational outcomes, and is withheld under section 6(a) of the OIA, as making this information publicly available would be likely to prejudice the security and defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

- 8) *Have NZDF personnel ever taken part in Operations FIXEDRAIL, LIGHTCRAWL or STANDARDBRISK ?*

No information could be found to indicate that NZDF personnel have taken part in these exercises.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF