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OIA-2022-4354

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Harold  
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Dear Harold

I refer to your request of 28 March 2022, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following information relating to the Information Domain / Information Warfare Domain development programme:

**ONE:** *In a December 2020 article for Line of Defence Magazine, two MoD/NZDF staff involved in this programme stated that:*

*"...it is in the Defence Capability Plan 2019 that the concept of the information domain was mooted for the first time. Since then, Defence has launched the Information Domain Review (IDR) and the Information Domain Delivery Strategy (IDDS)."*

*This article can be accessed here:*

<https://defsec.net.nz/2020/12/05/introducing-new-zealand-information-domain/>

*I would like to request copies of the "Information Domain Review" and "Information Domain Delivery Strategy" referred to here.*

As part of the Defence Capability Plan 2019<sup>1</sup>, investment in the Information domain through cyber, intelligence, semi-autonomous and space-centred technologies will provide New Zealand with a Defence Force that is resourced and prepared to operate in a modern strategic environment. In response to the need to invest in these capabilities for the future the Information Domain Delivery Strategy (IDDS) has been jointly drafted by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). This document is still under active consideration and as such this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

**TWO:** *Regarding the Chief of Information Warfare, I would like to request a copy of the job description for this role. If this vacancy was filled through a public or internal job posting, I would like to request a copy of this job posting.*

As an initial step, an interim Chief of Information Warfare has been appointed. This will help to develop options for how Defence will look to adjust its operating model to keep pace with technological change and maintain an appropriately skilled work force, whilst also

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.defence.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/03acb8c6aa/Defence-Capability-Plan-2019.pdf>

ensuring that agencies retain complementary levels of capability to allow them to work together. One of the tasks of this role, yet to be completed, is to develop the organisation and job descriptions for the roles required to address these challenges. As such, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

**THREE:** *The NZDF 2021 Annual Report notes that “A significant future milestone [for the IW Domain development programme] is the development of a business case for Information Warfare Domain Implementation” (p.85). I would like to request a copy of this business case.*

The Information Warfare Case for Change was approved by the NZDF Executive Committee in December 2021. As noted above, the IDDS remains under active consideration at this time and the associated business case is also therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv), as described above.

**FOUR:** *The annual report also refers to the “development of an Information Warfare Domain Delivery Strategy” (p.85). If this is different to the “Information Domain Delivery Strategy” I requested above, I would like to request a copy of this as well.*

It is not different, and reflects documentation name changes as the project progressed.

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