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OIA-2022-4395

24 May 2022

Scott
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Dear Scott

I refer to your request of 17 May 2022 seeking, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), a copy of the document titled "*Special Operations Component New Zealand Plan 2020–2025: Nationally Integrated Special Operations*".

This plan was provided in its draft form to the Expert Review Group (ERG) in order to demonstrate the evolution of Special Operations since 2010. As noted by the ERG, this plan was awaiting finalisation pending completion of the ERG report. The plan is yet to be finalised and is withheld in full in accordance with sections 6(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

The public interest in release of the draft plan does not outweigh the reasons to withhold it in this case. The ERG Report provides relevant comment and information on the plan without prejudicing the security and defence of New Zealand, and allowing the effective conduct of public affairs to be maintained while the drafting process continues.

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