



23 February 2023

Adam Irish
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Ref: OIA-2022/23-0572

Dear Adam Irish

Official Information Act request relating to Security threats

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 13 February 2023. You requested:

- 1. What steps are being taken to enhance the country's defense capabilities in light of current global security threats?*
- 2. How does the government plan to address the potential threat of conflict with the People's Republic of China and maintain regional stability?*
- 3. What is the current defense budget as a percentage of GDP and how does this compare to the recommended 2% for NATO partners?*
- 4. What measures are being taken to modernize and update the country's military equipment and technology?*
- 5. How does the government plan to enhance the readiness and training of New Zealand's military personnel?*
- 6. What is the government's position on New Zealand's ANZUS treaty obligations and how does it plan to address these commitments in the event of a conflict?*
- 7. How is the government working with international partners to enhance regional security and promote peace and stability?*
- 8. What is the government's strategy for addressing the threat of cyber attacks and ensuring the country's critical infrastructure is protected?*

I believe that the information you have requested in parts 1, 2, 3, and 4, is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry of Defence. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer these parts of your request to the Ministry of Defence.

I believe that the information you have requested in part 5 is more closely connected with the functions of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer this part of your request to NZDF.

I believe that the information you have requested in parts 6 and 7 is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer these parts of your request to MFAT.

The Ministry of Defence, New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Regarding part 8 of your request; cyber security is fundamental to a robust and thriving society. The Cyber Security Strategy 2019 outlines the areas where Government will prioritise action and how we will work together with individuals, businesses, and communities to ensure that New Zealand is confident and secure in the digital world. The strategy is publicly available and can be accessed from the following link:

[New Zealand's Cyber Security Strategy 2019 | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response may be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group