



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

OIA-2023-4657

24 March 2023

Adam Irish

fyi-request-21812-33148ada@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Adam Irish

I refer to your email of 13 February 2023 to Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to security threats. The following part of your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA.

- *How does the government plan to enhance the readiness and training of New Zealand's military personnel?*

The NZDF support to the all-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic (Operation Protect) has placed significant pressures on the readiness of the NZDF.

The three Chiefs of Service (Chief of Air Force, Chief of Army, and Chief of Navy) are responsible for raising, training and sustaining their respective personnel. With the drawdown of Operation Protect, the Services have been developing plans and regeneration activities to improve readiness and progressively return NZDF output delivery. For example, Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) air crew and maintainers are being trained by United States Navy and Royal Australian Air Force personnel for the introduction of Boeing P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft into the RNZAF fleet. In November 2022, the New Zealand Army carried out Exercise Torokiki, a milestone regeneration activity, which reconnected personnel with core combat capabilities. The Royal New Zealand Navy has welcomed back the ANZAC class frigates HMNZS Te Mana and HMNZS Te Kaha following extensive upgrades to surveillance, combat and self-defence capabilities, allowing them to continue to operate in a full range of roles.

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.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF