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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5119

// October 2024

N.S. Hudson

fyi-request-28079-f38c3be4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear N.S. Hudson

I refer to your email of 17 August 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below communications, documents and records relevant to the response to your request for information dated 20 June 2024, which was responded to under the identifier OIA-2024-5065.

Internal Communications: - All emails, memos, notes, and other internal communications between NZDF staff, officers, or contractors regarding the processing, discussion, or decision-making related to OIA-2024-5065.

Engagement between the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and foreign agencies is facilitated by NZDF Strategic Commitments and Engagement Branch (SCE Branch). This includes the operation of the offices of New Zealand's overseas Defence Attachés. Internal communications are at Enclosure 1. Where indicated names and contact details of operational personnel are withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA, as the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand. Other names are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) to protect privacy, and other contact details in accordance with section 9(2)(k) to avoid the malicious or inappropriate use of staff information, such as phishing, scams or unsolicited advertising. Some information is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion between members of a public sector agency in the course of their duty.

Document Handling: - Any internal documents, guidelines, or instructions provided to NZDF staff related to how OIA-2024-5065 was to be processed, including any documents that detail reasons for withholding or releasing information.

The NZDF policy for official information is Defence Force Instruction 7.2 (DFI 7.2), a copy of which is provided at enclosure 2.

Consultation and Decision Records: - Records of any consultations with other government departments, agencies, or external entities regarding the handling of OIA-2024-5065.

Details of the consultations with foreign agencies are withheld in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the OIA, as releasing these consultations would be likely to prejudice the international relations of the Government of New Zealand, and entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other

country respectively. No consultations were carried out with any other New Zealand agencies.

Records of any meetings or discussions specifically focused on OIA-2024-5065, including minutes, summaries, or action points.

No meetings were held relating to the previous responses to your requests. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as this information doesn't exist.

Final Decision and Review: - Any documents or records that discuss the final decision to withhold or release information in response to OIA-2024-5065, including the rationale for invoking specific sections of the OIA.

The response you received of July 22 2024 constitutes the final decision on your request. In addition to this a copy of the coversheet summarising that response is provided at Enclosure 3.

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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosures:

1. Emails
2. DFI 7.2
3. Coversheet