

OIA-2016-2560

12 October 2016

Mr Alex Hill

fyi-request-4708-d07cb245@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Hill

I refer to your email of 6 October 2016 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), a list of all HQ NZDF Joint Service Plans (JSP), including ... [t]he mission of the plan, and if applicable, the situation of the plan and [t]he mission, and situation of JSP/Operation(s) ... SARABAND ... and VIVENDI.

You stated that [s]ome of the contingencies are known to the public and some are not. For example, we know about NZJSP 201 (Prison Assist), 102 (Awhina), and 200 (Pluto). However, very little is known about some other plans.

You also stated that you were aware the nature of some JSPs may be at a CONFIDENTIAL level or higher (2a and 2b, for example) [that is, Saraband and Vivendi], and I request for a declassification of the requested portions.

Lastly, you requested DFO 51 Volume 5 - Communications Security ... DFO 90 - Operational Doctrine and Joint Force Directives ... and ...DFO - Defence Secure Network.

As you expected, the New Zealand Defence Force has a number of contingency plans to support possible Government requirements. These plans cover such possible requirements as assistance to other government agencies and counter-terrorism. The nature of these contingencies means that advance knowledge of likely Defence Force responses would be likely to prejudice national security. Accordingly, I am withholding mission plans under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act. It is decidedly not in the public interest that information that could frustrate the purpose of these plans should be published.

The same reasoning applies to the release of information about the Defence Force's communications security and the NZDF's secure network. Section 6(a) of the OIA again applies. There is no DFO 90, although there is a DFO 91(1), Chapter 1 of which is 100 Series Plans: Emergency Management Within New Zealand. The particular emergency covered is Capital Disaster, the expected result of a major earthquake.

I trust that you will accept that it would not be responsible to release classified plans and Defence Force Orders, although you retain the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH
Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF