



OIA-2018-3097

29 May 2018

**Valerie Morse**

[fyi-request-7818-d675f9b9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7818-d675f9b9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Morse

I refer to your email of 12 May 2018 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information in relation to the Israeli Defence Force:

- *Has the NZDF had any meetings with the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) or been present at meetings with members of the IDF in the past 5 years?*
- *If so, what were these meetings?*

First, I would like to note that the NZDF does not have a formal engagement strategy with the IDF.

The NZDF has identified two occasions over the past five years in which Senior NZDF personnel had scheduled meetings with members of the IDF in Israel. Both meetings were part of the planning and conduct of commemorative activities - August 2014 for the opening of the World War One mosaic at Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, and in October 2017 for the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba.

Senior NZDF personnel attend international forums as part of their duties, and the IDF may have been present at any of these meetings over the past five years. The NZDF does not hold records about these types of meetings, so this aspect of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

**G.R. SMITH**

Commodore, RNZN  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF