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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA  
WAONGA**  
NEW ZEALAND  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

13 April 2026

## RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 20 March 2026, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

*1. Investigation and Assessment Activity*

*Please confirm whether any investigations or assessments have been:*

- (a) initiated,*
- (b) undertaken, or*
- (c) completed*

*by the Inspector-General of Defence from 26 January 2025 to the date of this request.*

*If so, please provide, for each:*

- the date of initiation,*
- the general subject matter (in summary form),*
- the current status (e.g. in progress, completed),*
- whether a report has been produced.*

*If none have been initiated or completed, please confirm this.*

*2. Matters Received and Decision Outcomes*

*Please provide a summary of matters received by the Inspector-General of Defence since 26 January 2025, including:*

- the total number of matters received,*
- the number progressed to investigation or assessment,*
- the number not progressed,*
- the number determined to be outside jurisdiction.*

*For matters not progressed, please provide:*

- *the criteria or factors used to determine that a matter was not “necessary or appropriate” to progress (as referenced in the IGD Annual Report 2024/2025),*
- *any internal guidance, framework, or decision-making standard used to make this determination.*

### *3. Work Programme Development and External Inputs*

*Please provide documentation describing:*

- *how the Inspector-General of Defence develops its annual work programme,*
- *whether and how external submissions, complaints, or protected disclosures are considered in determining work programme priorities,*
- *whether any matters received from external parties since 26 January 2025 have been incorporated into the 2025–2026 work programme (in anonymised or general terms).*

### *4. Records of Decision-Making Frameworks*

*Please provide any internal policies, guidance documents, or frameworks that:*

- *govern the assessment of incoming matters,*
- *determine whether a matter proceeds to investigation or assessment,*
- *define thresholds such as “necessary” or “appropriate” for progression.*

We have endeavoured to respond to your four questions below.

The Inspector-General of Defence (IGD) is a separate independent statutory office from the Ministry of Defence (the Ministry). The Ministry does not have any role in overseeing or directing the work undertaken by the IGD. The IGD was established under *The Inspector-General of Defence Act 2023*, enacted on 26 January 2025, and is responsible for the oversight of the activities of the New Zealand Defence Force.

The purpose of the IGD is to:

- Provide the Minister with dedicated independent oversight of the NZDF;
- Support the Minister in their responsibility to the House of Representatives for the activities of the NZDF; and
- Assure the public that the activities of the NZDF are subject to independent scrutiny, including in relating to the NZDF’s compliance with New Zealand’s obligations under international law.

By way of background, the Ministry was initially involved in the establishment of the IGD but has no ongoing role in the day-to-day operations of the IGD. The relevant Cabinet papers relating to the establishment of the Inspector-General can be found on the Ministry’s website: [https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/doSearch/?Search=Inspector-General-of-Defence&Sort=date\\_desc#Results](https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/doSearch/?Search=Inspector-General-of-Defence&Sort=date_desc#Results)

The IGD provides independent, public reports on its work. The information you have requested is held by the IGD, and you are encouraged to contact it directly via its website: <https://www.igd.govt.nz/contact-us>

At this stage, one annual report has been produced by the IGD, for the period 26 January 2025 to 30 June 2025. The IGD has also published its 2025/26 Work Programme, which identifies

topics of interest for potential future investigations or assessments. These publications are available on its website: <https://www.igd.govt.nz>

As outlined above, the information you have requested is not held by the department and as a result your request is declined under, section 18(g) of the Act.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

Hamish Rogers  
**Deputy Secretary for Ministerial, Governance, and Assurance**