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

1 December 2025

V Tempsky

fyi-request-32859-5223dce6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear V Tempsky

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 15 November 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), responses to four questions regarding Ministry of Defence input into the development of four other government agencies' strategy documents. Responses to each question are provided below.

1. *What input was provided for the development of the government's Space and Advanced Aviation Strategy?*

The Ministry and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) provided input into the development of the *New Zealand Space and Advanced Aviation Strategy 2024-2030* as it relates to protecting and advancing New Zealand's national security interests. This is reflected in the Strategy as available on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website at: <https://mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/space/about-nzsa/space-and-advanced-aviation-strategy>.

2. *What input was provided for the development of the New Zealand Artificial Intelligence Strategy?*
3. *What input was provided for the development of the government's New Zealand Government Sport Diplomacy Strategy?*
4. *What input was provided for the development of the government's Fuel Security Plan?*

The Ministry did not provide any input into the development of the *Artificial Intelligence Strategy*, the *New Zealand Government Sport Diplomacy Strategy*, or the *Fuel Security Plan*. As such, these elements of your request are declined pursuant to section 18(e), that the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

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

Yours sincerely

Richard Schmidt
Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning

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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
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19 December 2025

V Tempsky

fyi-request-32859-5223dce6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear V Tempsky

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Further to your original Official Information Act request of 15 November, on 2 December you asked the Ministry to reconsider our response and provide:

Copies of all advice, analysis and correspondence relating the space and advanced aviation strategy.

In my initial response letter of 1 December, where you asked “*What input was provided for the development of the Space and Advanced Aviation Strategy?*” I outlined that the input provided by the Ministry and the New Zealand Defence Force was related to protecting and advancing New Zealand’s national security interests.

As a result of your subsequent request, one email was found in scope. In this email, Defence officials provided feedback on the draft paper from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

The Ministry believes it is important to protect a drafting environment in which Government officials can effectively communicate their intentions and directions for complex policy proposals, in a way that can be adapted to requirements. In drafting papers, it is important for officials to be able to provide free and frank advice. As a result, the drafting of this information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as the document was at an early stage of development and was not considered to be formal advice to the Minister.

In accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act, we are providing a summary of the feedback in this document. The Ministry highlighted the importance of space to defence and wider national security issues. The Ministry’s input became the basis of the textbox on Page 10 of the Strategy, titled ‘Protecting and advancing New Zealand’s national security interests’. This textbox is close in wording to the feedback provided by the Ministry to MBIE.

This feedback was consistent with the *2025 Defence Capability Plan*, where space capabilities are highlighted as critical for modern operations, and investment being required to increase resilience across such systems, including ground stations to access partner satellite systems.

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

Yours sincerely

Richard Schmidt
Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning