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

8 July 2026

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2026, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to the 'public service overhaul' announced by the Minister of Finance and Minister for the Public Service and Digitising Government on 19 May. Your questions are answered below, and have been numbered for ease of reference.

As context, the Ministry of Defence (the Ministry) is a civilian agency that is responsible for the development of defence policy, international defence engagements, and the delivery of major capability projects. The Ministry operates from Defence House in Wellington. We are a separate agency from the New Zealand Defence Force, which includes the military services and includes personnel based around New Zealand.

1. *What is the expected timeline of implementing the Government's public service overhaul targets within your agency, and when you expect to consult staff on restructures if you have not done so already?*

As outlined by the Minister of Finance on 19 May, the Ministry is not subject to the Budget 2026 baseline savings exercise. However, it is subject to the in-principle target of reducing public service FTEs to below 55,000 by 2029. Chief Executives have been asked to work through this. No decisions have been made within the Ministry. Information on the Ministry's early-stage consideration of this matter is withheld at this time pursuant to section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act – in order to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

I understand that the Treasury and the Public Service Commission are working on the proactive release on details of the broader Government expectations for the FTE work, and I refer you to that for the overarching details of the work. As such your request as it relates to that information is declined under section 18(d) of the Act – that the information will be made publicly available shortly.

2. *Whether your agency is planning on or considering to cut any roles located in the Northland region, and if so, how many, and what specific roles?*

The Ministry does not operate in Northland and has no roles located there. As such, this element of your request is declined under section 18(g) – that no information is held.

3. *Whether your agency is planning on or considering to cut any Māori specific roles, and if so, how many, and what specific roles?*

The Ministry has no roles that would be identified as Māori specific roles. As such, this element of your request is declined under section 18(g) – that no information is held.

4. *Whether your agency is planning on or considering to cut any staffing who have identified to Whakapapa Māori, and if so, how many, and what specific roles?*

No decisions have yet been made regarding changes to the Ministry as a result of the in-principle FTE target. Information on the Ministry's early-stage consideration of this matter is withheld at this time pursuant to section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act – in order to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

5. *What advice, including briefings, weekly reports, aide memoirs, or any other written advice, has been given to your leadership team or relevant Minister on the impact of cuts to any regional delivery programmes of work, if any?*

The Ministry does not undertake any work that would be described as involving regional delivery programmes of work. As such, this element of your request is declined under section 18(g) – that no information is held.

6. *What advice, including briefings, weekly reports, aide memoirs, or any other written advice has been given to their leadership team or their Minister on any Māori workforce impacts of restructures to implement public service job cuts, if any?*

No decisions have yet been made regarding changes to the Ministry as a result of the in-principle FTE target. Information on the Ministry's early-stage consideration of this matter is withheld at this time pursuant to section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act – in order to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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

Yours sincerely

Anton Youngman
Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Management and Assessment