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MANATŪ KAUPAPA WAONGA
NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

20 November 2026

RESPONSE TO YOUR INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 27 October 2026, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information *relating to the resignation of Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Tony Davies.* In particular, you seek:

- *All briefings, emails, letters, text messages, meeting notes and other records exchanged between the Ministry, the Minister's office and NZDF concerning Davies' resignation and the circumstances leading to it.*
- *Records identifying when the Ministry of Defence was first informed of the relationship, the associated integrity concerns, and any alleged failure to disclose the matter.*
- *Any advice provided to the Ministry concerning Davies' continued suitability for the position of Chief of Defence Force, including advice about resignation, removal or other possible actions.*
- *Any records concerning the decision to accept or facilitate Davies' resignation, including advice about the process for ending his appointment and any relevant correspondence with the Governor-General's office.*
- *Any records concerning the decision to refer the matter to the Inspector-General of Defence, including advice on the referral's scope and any correspondence about the issues to be investigated.*
- *Any records held by the Ministry showing whether the relationship, associated conduct concerns or any failure to disclose the matter had been brought to their attention before October 2026.*

The Ministry of Defence is not involved in the process of appointing or ending the appointment of a Chief of Defence Force, including correspondence with the Governor-General's office. Information on such matters would be held by Hon Paul Goldsmith, the Minister of Defence. Ordinarily under section 14 of the Act, we are required to transfer the request to the Minister. However, we have confirmed with the Minister's Office that they also received a similar request from you that they will be responding to. In this instance, we do not see it necessary to formally transfer your request on this occasion.

I understand you have made the same requests to the Minister and NZDF, and refer you to those agencies for consideration of material they created. With regard to information the Ministry of Defence may hold, as this matter has been referred to the Inspector-General of Defence, at this time it is necessary to withhold details relating to the resignation of the former Chief of Defence Force Tony Davies, in accordance with section 6(c) and 9(2)(ba) of the Act to avoid the prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the investigation of offences, and to protect information that was provided under an obligation of confidence.

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, Ministerials, Governance and Assurance