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

20 January 2026

Nigel Gray
fyi-request-33157-339cb952@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nigel

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding New Zealand's defence support to Ukraine's self-defence.

Briefings and Cabinet papers associated with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) deployment in support of Ukraine are available from the Ministry of Defence website at <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications>. These include details about the objectives and basis for this deployment. The three most recent proactive releases are listed below:

- the February 2025 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision for the NZDF deployment entitled *New Zealand Assistance for Ukraine: Military Options 2025/26* [FPS-25-MIN-0001 and FPS-25-SUB-0001] is available at <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/new-zealand-assistance-for-ukraine-military-options-20252026/>
- the July 2024 joint briefing to the Minister of Defence *New Zealand Assistance to Ukraine: Change in Location of New Zealand Defence Force Engineering Training Support* is available at: <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/nz-assistance-to-ukraine-change-in-location-of-nzdf-engineering-training-support/>
- the August 2024 joint briefing to the Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs *New Zealand Contribution to NATO Ukraine Effort: Participation and Financial Arrangement* is available at: <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/nz-contribution-to-nato-ukraine-effort-participation-and-financial-arrangement/>.

Details regarding the broader support that the New Zealand Government has provided for Ukraine is available at this page on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website at <https://mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/europe/ukraine/russian-invasion-of-ukraine>.

Responses to each of your specific requests can be found below:

1. *Records of defence agreements, partnerships, or obligations that influenced or required New Zealand to provide military support to Ukraine.*

The Ministry of Defence does not hold any information in scope of this element of your request. The strategic objectives for the NZDF deployment to Europe in support of Ukraine (known as Operation TĒKE) can be found in the February 2025 Cabinet paper referenced above. The deployment's third strategic objective looks for New Zealand to strengthen and

enhance its relationships with likeminded partners by demonstrating commitment to addressing global security challenges, through military contributions. However, no specific defence agreement, partnership, or obligation influenced or required New Zealand's decision to provide military support to Ukraine. As such, this element of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the Act – that the information does not exist.

2. *Documentation of any requests or communications from allied defence partners concerning NZ's role in Ukraine.*

The Ministry works closely with our partners through mechanisms such as the Ukraine Defense Contact Group to ensure our support is aligned with Ukraine's needs. Through the course of this cooperation the Ministry receives regular correspondence from partners on the future of international efforts to support Ukraine.

These communications are withheld in full pursuant to sections 6(a), 6(b)(i) and 6(b)(ii) of the Act, as the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand by foreign Governments and international organisations.

3. *Copies of ministerial briefings or Cabinet papers prepared by the Ministry of Defence that reference external defence obligations in relation to Ukraine.*

The Ministry does not hold any information in scope of this element of your request, as New Zealand does not have external defence obligations in relation to Ukraine. As such, this element is also declined in accordance with section 18(e) 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

Richard Schmidt
Deputy Secretary, Defence Policy and Planning