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

28 January 2026

Dear

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

I request under the OIA all documents relating to the remarks made by defence staff in the below story.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/580673/defence-force-dusting-off-the-history-books-to-copy-recruitment-strategies-from-1930s>

On 8 January 2026, the Ministry transferred part of your request, relating to remarks made by the Chief of Defence Force, to the New Zealand Defence Force as they were best placed to assist with this part of your request.

The following Ministry of Defence documents were considered in scope of your request:

- *Industry Strategy and opportunities for New Zealand Defence Industry*, excerpt from the *Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee*, December 2025;
- *Combined Space Operations, Multi-National Force – Operation Olympic Defence, and Joint Commercial Operations*, excerpt from the *Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee*, December 2025; and
- *Opening Remarks for Secretary of Defence*, 2 December 2025.

Some information within the attached documents is withheld, in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

The above collateral was provided to the Secretary of Defence to support his attendance at the Select Committee hearing. In the case of the *Opening Remarks for Secretary of Defence*, 2 December 2025, the actual delivery may vary from the briefing material prepared.

Where information is withheld under section 9(2) of the Act, the public interest is not considered to outweigh the need to protect that information.

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

Yours sincerely

Harish Rogers

Deputy Secretary for Ministerial, Governance, and Assurance

Enclosed:

- *Industry Strategy and opportunities for New Zealand Defence Industry*, excerpt from the *Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee*, December 2025.
- *Combined Space Operations, Multi-National Force – Operation Olympic Defence, and Joint Commercial Operations*, excerpt from the *Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee*, December 2025.
- *Opening Remarks for Secretary of Defence*, 2 December 2025.