

28/06/2018: Enquiry from Stuff.co.nz

Hi there,

I have been passed a OIA (OIA-2018-304) relating to a poster and graffiti campaign, which relates to the allegations surrounding Operation Burnham.

I have a few questions - and I need a response by 2pm on Friday 28th. Thank you!

- Why was NZDF so concerned about the graffiti and so exercised about getting it removed? Is this normal to react to protest material in this way (for example protests against Afghanistan or Iraq) or is criticism of Operation Burnham perceived as particularly sensitive.

- Did NZDF staff remove any of the posters or graffiti? If so, how many items, how many staff and how long did it take?

- How many NZDF photographers were dispatched to take photos of the posters/banners/graffiti? Why was this deemed necessary?

- Will the NZDF treat further banners and posters in this way?

- In the email trail, one member of staff remarks: "Dumb question have we thought about the headline 'NZDF attempts to stop free speech' " Was any consideration given to this?

- Another executive officer says: "I do not believe there is a complaint regarding the actual words." Did NZDF not take issue with the wording?

Thanks!

NZDF replied on 29/06/2018:

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) takes its reputation seriously and upon being made aware of the offensive and inaccurate messages on public display, a request was made with Wellington City Council to remove them. No NZDF photographer was deployed and we have no further comment to make on this matter.

29/06/2018: Follow up from Stuff.co.nz

Hi, sorry to be a pain - can i clarify then who took the photos, if not a staff photographer?

NZDF replied on 29/06/2018:

The photos were taken by NZDF staff members on their way to work using their phones.