



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
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New Zealand

OIA-2023-4734

21 June 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 23 May 2023, requesting the following:

- 1. On March 15, 2019, what, if any, NZDF assets (including aircraft) or personnel had been or were deployed which required the authority of the Prime Minister, or for the Prime Minister to be consulted?*
- 2. When were those assets or personnel deployed (date and time)?*
- 3. What was the purpose?*
- 4. What, if any, NZDF assets (including aircraft) or personnel require the authority of the Prime Minister, or for the Prime Minister to be consulted prior to deployment?*
- 5. Regarding such assets, if any, please provide a breakdown of when those assets have been deployed in the last five years after consultation with the PM, and what the purpose was.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Where applicable, the use of New Zealand's Armed Forces to provide public service or assist civil power is undertaken in accordance with section 9 of the Defence Act 1990 (the Act). A copy of this legislation is publicly available online<sup>1</sup>. The Prime Minister was not required to authorise New Zealand Defence Force support in response to the mosque attacks in Christchurch, and has not been required to authorise the use of New Zealand's Armed Forces under section 9 of the Act in the past five years.

Information regarding support provided by the New Zealand Defence Force in response to the mosque attacks in Christchurch, and Exercise Nocturnal Reach, will be released to you in response to your 17 April 2023 request.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1990/0028/latest/DLM205887.html>