



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2024-4998

4 June 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 19 April 2024 seeking opinion and responses to a series of hypothetical questions. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and responses are provided below.

- *Does the NZDF/DEFVET follow/value the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993? If yes, what justification does it have to discriminate against someone who belongs to a religious organisation?*

The explanation for why your application was not progressed was provided to you in the email of 6 August 2019 from Wayne Hannah. This decision was not discriminatory.

- *If NZDF/DEFVET has a list of "supremacist groups", what is the list/database called?*
 - *Is the list public?*
 - *Is the list shared with other government departments?*
 - *Is the list shared with the five eyes members?*
 - *Is the list derived from information from other departments? If yes, which one?*
- *If NZDF/DEFVET has a list of "supremacist people", what is the list/database called?*
 - *Is the list public?*
 - *Is the list shared with other government departments?*
 - *Is the list shared with the five eyes members?*
 - *Is the list derived from information from other departments? If yes, which one?*
- *Which government and non-government organizations does the NZDF/DEFVET gather information from or consult with to come up with their list?*

The NZDF does not produce or maintain such lists. These parts of your request are declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as the information you have requested does not exist.

- *What is the NZDF/DEFVET's definition of the the word "supremacist"?*
- *Which government and non-government organizations does NZDF/DEFVET gather information from or consult with to come up with their definition of "supremacist"?*

The NZDF does not use a working definition for the word "supremacist". These parts of your request are therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA, as explained above.

- *Can an appeal be made to remove the designation of a group being labeled as a being a supremacist group?*

As explained above, the NZDF does not produce or maintain a list of "supremacist groups".

- *If a person is no longer associated with a group defined as "supremacist", is their personal name still on a list and barred from getting a security clearance? If yes, how can the person get their name off of the list?*

As noted in the email to you of 28 May 2024, this part of your request has been transferred to the New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Security and Intelligence Service for a response.

- *Is it best practice to notify someone if they have been identified as being associated with a supremacist group or if they are listed as being a supremacist?*
- *Is it best practice to associate a person with a "supremacist" group if there is no public disclosure that the group has identified as a supremacist group?*

The NZDF has various units tasked to identify, and respond accordingly to, potential risks and harm to the organisation. Details or comment on the processes that these units undertake are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA as their release would likely prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand.

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 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