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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5132

*Jm*  
November 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 10 September 2024, requesting the following information:

*I have been told the NZDF has been advised to pause training for a year and a half in relation to Budget cuts.*

*Can you please confirm what the situation is, whether this is the case, and when this was put in place? In addition, would you be able to state the impact this may have?*

Following the response from Defence Public Affairs, on 11 September 2024, you requested:

*Can you confirm which exercises and trainings have had to be cancelled, and how many are still going ahead?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). A wide-range of training and exercises are conducted every day across the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to ensure a high level of readiness, and for operational outputs continue. Changes to planned training and exercises, routinely occur during the course of a year and for a variety of reasons. This may include combining some activities to improve efficiencies and/or take advantage of opportunities as they arise. All such changes are closely managed to preserve the operational effectiveness of the NZDF.

Cost pressure has resulted in some changes; for instance, a large-scale NZDF field training exercise has been cancelled for the 2024/25 financial year and the NZDF will not be participating in Exercise Koa Moana, a United States Marine Corps (USMC)-led humanitarian assistance mission. Other activities to enable readiness will still occur. Your request for information concerning the number of all NZDF training and exercises, however, is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA. There is no centralised repository for this information, and a substantial collation and research effort would be required to identify all training and exercises, determine what information could be released, and provide a decision.

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

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF