



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

OIA-2024-5216

9 January 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 28 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

- *All reports, emails, briefings, aide memoire, analysis and documentation of any kind on any platform, sent, held or received by NZDF, relating to the presence, or suspected presence, of nuclear-powered submarines in New Zealand's EEZ and in New Zealand's territorial waters, including the country of origin of any such submarines.*
- *The time frame for this request is from January 1, 2020 to the date of this email.*

Given the vast size of New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone, Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft do not routinely search for submarines. Unless intelligence information is available to identify a submarine operating area, it would be quite impractical to conduct an effective search.

As no specific operations have been undertaken in the past four years, it would require a substantial research effort to determine if any relevant information is held across various New Zealand Defence Force databases and hard-copy files. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA. In this instance, I do not believe seeking a refinement of the request or fixing a charge would change the decision to decline your 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 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