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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA  
WAONGA**  
NEW ZEALAND  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

26 March 2024

Jorja  
[fyi-request-25498-eabdf095@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25498-eabdf095@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Jorja

## RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 24 January 2024 in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*Copies of all advice (reports, briefings, aides-memoires, memos, information updates) that have been provided to the Minister since 1 November 2023 in relation to the decision to deploy NZDF personnel in the Red Sea.*

On 21 February, the Ministry of Defence informed you that we were extending your request by 23 working days to 26 March 2024, to complete the necessary consultation with other government agencies. Inter-agency consultation has now been completed, and your request is addressed below.

Enclosed are the key documents that reflect the substantive policy advice provided to Ministers on the Red Sea deployment. One further key document, the January 2024 Cabinet paper and associated minute *Proposed New Zealand Defence Force Contribution to Military Action Against Houthi Targets*, is considered to be in scope of your request. Due to the fact that this paper is due to be proactively published on the Ministry of Defence website, this element of your request is declined under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be publicly available.

The dates and titles of the enclosed documents are as follows:

	Title	Date
1	Email correspondence, <i>Red Sea/Houthi Attacks – US request for NZ support</i>	6 January 2024
2	<i>Informal Note — United States request for New Zealand support for action against the Houthi</i>	10 January 2024
3	<i>Aide Memoire: Proposed New Zealand Defence Force Contribution To Military Action Against Houthi Targets</i>	16 January 2024

Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- to protect the security or the international relations of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- to protect information entrusted to the New Zealand Government by other countries' Governments [section 6(b)(i)]
- to protect the privacy of natural persons [section 9(2)(a)]
- to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials [section 9(2)(f)(iv)]
- to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions to Ministers of the Crown by officials [section 9(2)(g)(i)]
- to maintain legal professional privilege [section 9(2)(h)]

Where information has been withheld under section 9(2) of the Act, it is not considered that the public interest in this information outweighs the need to protect it.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely



PP  
Richard Schmidt  
**Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning**

Enclosed

- Email correspondence, *Update for Ministers: Red Sea/Houthi Attacks – US request for NZ support*, 6 January 2024
- *Informal Note — United States request for New Zealand support for action against the Houthi*, 10 January 2024
- *Aide Memoire: Proposed New Zealand Defence Force Contribution To Military Action Against Houthi Targets*, 16 January 2024