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New Zealand Defence Force
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OIA-2023-4845

16 November 2023

Chris McCashin

fyi-request-23935-c4f9c009@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Chris McCashin

I refer to your email of 23 August 2023 to the Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

Please provide the most recent report completed by the Government and their individual agencies that have funding in excess of \$20m that report on

- How the agency tackles exploitation risks in their operations and supply chains*
- Specifically looking for supply chains relating to individual agencies and electric cars*
- Specifically looking for supply chains relating to individual agencies and mobile phones*
- Specifically looking for supply chains for any products the government buys in bulk that require rare earth minerals mined in third world countries contributing to modern slavery*

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) on 18 October 2023 in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

The NZDF does not hold reports concerning the supply chain for electric cars or mobile phones, and the NZDF does not procure rare earth minerals. Accordingly, 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.

The NZDF requires all suppliers and contractors to comply with the New Zealand Government Supplier Code of Conduct¹ which outlines the expectations of its suppliers. Tenderers and suppliers to the NZDF are requested to demonstrate how they ensure there is no evidence of exploitation in their supply chains and their commitment towards compliance.

For your information, Sir Brian Roche and PwC were commissioned to review Defence procurement policies and procedures. The most recent review was completed in 2021 and is publicly available on the Ministry of Defence website.²

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.

¹ <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/supplier-code-of-conduct/>

² <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publication/review-of-defence-procurement-policies-and-practices-2021>

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.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF