

OIA-2015-2183

3 March 2015

John Knox

fyi-request-2527-517761e6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Knox

I refer to your email of 26 February 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), details about the NZSAS and Iraq. In your request, you wrote:

I seek to determine the dates of Ministerial approval for deployment of members of the NZ SAS to Iraq during the period between 1/1/2014, up to the current date.

I would also be interested in deployment dates & information pertaining to describe the scope of activities permitted for the same period.

The New Zealand Defence Force does not usually comment on the activities of the NZSAS. In this instance, however, I can confirm that there was no Ministerial approval for a deployment of the NZSAS to Iraq, between 1 January 2014 and the present. I must therefore decline to meet your request under section 18(e) of the OIA. The information you seek does not exist.

Pursuant to section 18B of the OIA, I have considered whether consulting with you might help to remove the reason for refusing your request, but I do not believe this would result in a different outcome.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH

Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF