



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

OIA-2024-5032

14 June 2024

Scott

fyi-request-26835-640ade00@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Scott

I refer to your email of 16 May 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

The 2022 update to the NZ Classification System Policy introduced new advisories and requirements for PSR-mandated agencies who hold classified information such as the NZDF.

Relating to this, I would like to request copies of:

ONE: The NZDF Declassification Policy

TWO: The NZDF Declassification Governance Framework

THREE: Any NZDF documents that set out criteria for declassifying documents

FOUR: Any plan or roadmap NZDF has for proactive declassification

FIVE: For the PSR Self-Assessment Reports submitted 2023 and 2024, all answers

supplied by NZDF to the questions relating to the implementation of the 2022 Classification System Policy update (including any written answers and attachments included as part of NZDF's answers).

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) policy and guidance for declassification of information is drawn primarily from New Zealand Protective Security Requirements (PSR) and the New Zealand Information Security Manual, both of which are available online¹. Additional policy and guidance is contained in Defence Force Order (DFO) 51, volumes 1 and 4. If released, these volumes would provide insight into NZDF security methodology and procedure. They are therefore withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA. NZDF's report answers for the PSR self-assessment reports for 2023 and 2024 are withheld for the same reason.

DFO 51 is currently being rewritten. The new declassification policy, guidance and procedure for the NZDF will be contained in Defence Force Instruction (DFI) 20.6, which is currently not finalised and in draft form. This document is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion by members of any public service or agency in the course of their duties. Text from the draft document relevant to your request

¹ www.protectivesecurity.govt.nz/classification-sytem/how-to-declassify/
www.nzism.gcsb.govt.nz/ism-document

has been extracted as it informs the NZDF's intended future declassification policy. This extracted information is at Enclosure 1.

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

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Excerpt from draft DFI 26