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New Zealand
**MINISTRY
OF DEFENCE**
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga

11 February 2016

OC003-2016-4018

Valerie Morse
fyi-request-3214-a9ef0e9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Morse

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

In October 2015, you requested copies of the submissions made for the Defence White Paper process, and I advised that these were expected to be publicly released by the end of that year. I understand that you have raised concerns to the Ombudsman that these documents have not yet been made available.

I apologise that the Ministry of Defence did not contact you to advise that these documents are being released slightly later than expected. We recognise public interest in this information, and have been focused on a fulsome release of this information following government consideration. Subsequent to the letter to you, it was decided by the Minister of Defence that the submissions should be released alongside the new Defence White Paper. It is intended that this occur in late March 2016.

As mentioned in my previous letter, we will release the submissions alongside a summary of the submissions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helene Quilter'.

Helene Quilter
Secretary of Defence

cc: Michelle Taylor, Senior Investigator
Office of the Ombudsman