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

11 November 2015

OC003-2016-4023

Brett Cooper
fyi-request-3247-a0c6e410@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Cooper

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2014, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding soldiers trained by New Zealand Defence Force personnel in the Middle East.

New Zealand is in Iraq solely to provide training to the Iraqi Army through the building partner capacity mission. We have very little involvement with Iraqi Army personnel once they complete their training. As a result, we do not hold information regarding Iraqi personnel joining Daesh. The other training effort the New Zealand Defence Force has been involved in is training of Afghan officers through the Afghan National Officer Academy. We do not however hold information on the Afghan officers once they complete their training. I am therefore declining your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

You can find further information on the deployment of New Zealand military personnel to Iraq on the Ministry of Defence website: <http://defence.govt.nz/reports-publications/iraq/contents.html>.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helene Quilter', with a large loop at the end.

Helene Quilter
Secretary of Defence