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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2026-5686

27th March 2026

Spencer Jones

fyi-request-33888-7f628270@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Spencer Jones

I refer to your request of 27 February 2026, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), seeking *records of engagement between Veterans' Affairs New Zealand (VANZ) and the Minister for Veterans (or Associate Minister, if applicable), since 1 January 2019*. The specifics of your request are addressed below.

1. *Ministerial Briefings and Advice*

Please provide copies of any briefings, aide-memoires, reports, Cabinet papers, draft briefings, or formal advice provided to the Minister for Veterans since 1 January 2019 that:

- a) *Refer to referral pathways, navigation assistance, or signposting for veterans beyond statutory entitlements under the Veterans' Support Act 2014;*
- b) *Discuss interaction between VANZ and:*

- *The Veterans' Advisory Board,*
- *Charitable organisations,*
- *Community organisations,*
- *Mainstream government agencies*

in relation to veteran support outside statutory benefits;

- c) *Identify, assess, or comment on service gaps, navigation barriers, or unmet need affecting veterans outside the statutory entitlement framework.*

If material is contained within broader briefings, provision of the relevant extracts is sufficient.

2. *Ministerial Correspondence*

Please provide copies of any correspondence (including emails, letters, or meeting notes) between VANZ/NZDF officials and the Minister for Veterans since 1 January 2019 that:

- a) *Discuss responsibility for veteran navigation outside statutory entitlements;*
- b) *Raise concerns regarding referral coordination; or*
- c) *Refer to implementation implications arising from the Paterson Report in relation to veteran navigation or support coordination.*

3. *Cabinet or Inter-Agency Material*

If any Cabinet papers, departmental reports, or inter-agency submissions since 1 January 2019 reference veteran navigation, referral systems, or coordination outside statutory entitlements, please provide copies (or relevant extracts).

As noted in previous responses to your requests on these matters, Veterans' Affairs (VA) mandate and responsibilities are clearly defined, and that the matters you raise fall outside VA's mandate. Accordingly, the advice provided to the Minister predominantly reflects matters that VA is responsible for, and no advice or information on the matters you have raised has been identified. These parts of your request are therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

Regarding the implementation of the Paterson Report recommendations, I have previously noted recommendations that I considered to be the closest to the intent of your recent requests. I have not included copies of advice relating to these or other recommendations as they are not considered directly relevant or within the scope of your request, or the general intent of the requests you have previously submitted. The information that is publicly available broadly reflects this advice. If there is a particular recommendation for which you are seeking additional information, please detail this and it will be considered accordingly.

The New Zealand Defence Force takes its responsibilities under the OIA seriously, endeavouring to be fair and thorough when responding to all requestors. Your requests currently account for a significantly disproportionate number of those currently being actioned. This is particularly unusual for requests from a single individual or organisation. Additionally, your recent requests overlap significantly or seek information that has been previously addressed. If this approach continues, the NZDF will consider the applicability of section 18(h) of the OIA for future requests where a decision has already been provided.

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.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF