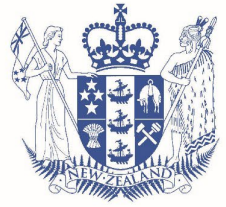


# Hon Chris Penk

Minister of Defence  
Minister for Building and Construction  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB and NZSIS  
Minister for Space  
Associate Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery



16 April 2026

OIA26-119

Spencer Jones

[fyi-request-34114-89a5d32d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34114-89a5d32d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Jones,

I refer to your email of 17 March 2026, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *copies of any ministerial briefings, advice papers, or briefing notes provided to the Minister for Veterans which reference or discuss advice from the Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB), from the introduction of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 to the present.*

You specified that this includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1. Briefings prepared by Veterans' Affairs New Zealand or NZDF for the Minister relating to Veterans' Advisory Board recommendations or reports.*
- 2. Briefings analysing, responding to, or proposing action on advice provided by the Veterans' Advisory Board.*

I note you have made a number of similar information requests to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), and that these requests will substantively cover any information held by my office relevant to these parts of your request. In the interest of efficiency and completeness of any relevant information, I refer you to NZDF's impending response for these two parts, noting that the timeframe covered as it relates to my office will be from when the current Government was formed on 24 November 2023 to when your request was received on 17 March 2026.

- 3. Any ministerial correspondence or internal notes discussing Veterans' Advisory Board recommendations.*

See attached alongside this letter a binder containing information found to be within scope of this part of your request. Some information is withheld, in accordance with the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons,
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown and employees of any public service organisation in the course of their duty; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

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

Yours faithfully,



Hon Chris Penk  
**Minister for Veterans**