



31 March 2026

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Ref: OIA-2025/26-0595

Tēnā koe Spencer,

Official Information Act request: Cabinet Trace Expansion: Veterans' Advisory Board Advice

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act (the Act), received on 18 March 2026. You requested:

"Please provide the following:

1. Cabinet Committee Papers

A list (index) of Cabinet Committee papers from 1 January 2015 to present that:

- relate to veterans' policy, services, or entitlements; and/or*
- reference, incorporate, or are informed by advice from the Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB), whether explicitly or implicitly.*

For each item, please include:

- title*
- date*
- Cabinet Committee name (e.g. SWC, DEV, etc.)*
- reference number (if available)*
- originating agency*

2. Cabinet Minute Summaries

A list or summaries of Cabinet or Cabinet Committee minutes over the same period that:

- record discussion or decisions relating to veterans' matters; and/or*
- note advice, input, or recommendations originating from the VAB.*

Where full minutes cannot be released, metadata or summary-level descriptions are sufficient.

3. Drafting Agency Inputs

Information describing which agencies contributed to the drafting of Cabinet papers relating to veterans' matters, including:

- NZDF / Veterans' Affairs*
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)*
- Ministry of Health / Te Whatu Ora (if applicable)*
- any other contributing agencies*

If available, please provide:

- *drafting responsibility allocations*
- *consultation or clearance processes*
- *inter-agency correspondence logs (metadata only is sufficient)*

4. Record-Keeping and Search Methodology

Please describe:

- *the systems used to store and retrieve Cabinet papers and associated records*
- *whether VAB advice is tagged, indexed, or otherwise identifiable within those systems*
- *the search terms or methodology used to respond to this request*

5. Transfers (if applicable)

If any part of this request is more appropriately held by another agency (e.g. NZDF or Veterans' Affairs), please transfer under section 14 of the OIA and advise accordingly.

Clarification:

For the purposes of this request, "reference to VAB advice" includes:

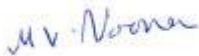
- *explicit mention of the Veterans' Advisory Board*
- *incorporation of recommendations originating from the VAB*
- *policy development informed by VAB advice, even where not explicitly cited*

This request is intended to understand how advisory input from the VAB is reflected within Cabinet-level decision-making processes, and how such information is recorded and traceable."

I believe parts 1 to 3 of your request are more closely connected to the functions of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Accordingly, I have decided to transfer these parts of your request to NZDF under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. The Cabinet Office is a business unit within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and we will respond in due course with information that relates to part 4 of your request.

NZDF has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Nāku noa, nā



Margaret Noonan
Principal Adviser, Ministerial Services