

OIA-2015-2387

2B January 2016

Anthony Jordan

fyi-request-3455-04cee5e9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan

I refer to your email of 10 December 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) approach to concussion. Specifically you asked:

1/ Guidelines used by the NZDF recognizing and treating the effects of Concussion/ Mild Traumatic Brain Injury whether training and/or Combat related

The NZDF follows the Australasian guidelines for the management of mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) and we have access to the US and UK guidelines. We also participate in a number of technical information sharing forums on the topic.

2/ Do the NZDF intend, if not already, to use the same model as the United States to improve their understanding and tolerance of behaviors/conduct of those effected by Concussion and mTBI injuries.

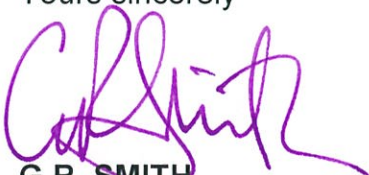
There is no intention at present to stop using the Australasian approach. We have no evidence that there would be an improvement that would result from a change to the US approach, indeed, given the differing medical and resource paradigms outcomes may well deteriorate with such a move.

3/ For years between 2000-2015, how many NZDF staff/troops have been assisted/received entitlements /compensation for Concussion/mTBI injuries

117 NZDF personnel have been assisted or received entitlements /compensation for concussion or mTBI injuries over the years 2000-2015.

I trust this satisfies your request for information.

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH

Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF