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

5 October 2017

Phil Chamberlain  
[fyi-request-6579-e80e64a4@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6579-e80e64a4@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Chamberlain

## RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 21 September 2017, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), “copies of all files you hold on the ABC arrests and trials which took place between 1977 and 1978”.

The Ministry of Defence that existed in 1977 and 1978 was subsequently divided into the arrangements we have today, with a Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force constituted as separate agencies. At the time of this split, records from the previous Ministry were divided between the two Defence agencies. As such, the Defence Force was also approached to identify if that organisation holds the information you request.

Both the Ministry and Defence Force have confirmed that they do not hold the information you request. This has included checking with Archives New Zealand.

As such, I am refusing your request on the grounds that the information requested does not exist or cannot be found, pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act.

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 'H. Quilter', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Helene Quilter  
**Secretary of Defence**