



OIA-2019-3637

3 October 2019

**Ms Mahrukh Sarwar**  
or [email.address@goes.here](mailto:email.address@goes.here)

Dear Ms Sarwar

I refer to your email of 13 September 2019 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *information for the purpose of participating in the Royal Commission inquiry into the attack on Christchurch Mosques.*

Your request covered *Period A: October 2017 – present; Period B: November 2008 – October 2017; Period C: December 1999 – November 2008; and Period D: November 1990 – November 1999*, in order of priority.

Specifically, you asked for:

1. *Copies of NZDF documents, correspondences and addresses (including but not limited to emails, letters, presentations), for periods A, B, C and D, referring to any of the following terms:*
  - a. *Arab / Muslim / Islam / Islamist / Islamicist / Jihadist /*
  - b. *Terrorists / Extremists / Radical / Far-right / White supremacy*

Despite breaking the period of time your request covers into 4 groups, a significant research and collation effort would be required to gather and prepare the information within scope. Much of the information is likely to be collections of media articles that include the terms you have identified.

If you were to refine this part of your request further, it will be reconsidered. As it stands, it is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA.

2. *What professional cultural advice or training or resources has the NZDF requested or received on Islam or Muslims for periods A, B, C and D?*
3. *Do all of your staff receive comprehensive cultural intelligence and full competency training and review?*

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel receive appropriate training for the purposes of their role. Enclosed is a response to an earlier request for information on cultural training. It includes enclosure 3 of that response as it is the most relevant to your request. Personal information is withheld to protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. Other documentation that may be within the scope of your request is not provided as a result of the significant research and collation effort that would be required.

4. *Was the counter-terrorism squad trained to deal with a shooter at a place of worship?*
5. *Did the counter-terrorism squad have any training in how to respond to a mass shooter at a Mosque?*

The mission for the NZDF is to secure New Zealand against external threat, to protect our sovereign interests, including the Exclusive Economic Zone, and to take action to meet likely contingencies in New Zealand's area of strategic interest. With respect to countering a terrorist incident within New Zealand, the lead agency is the NZ Police. In such circumstances the NZ Police may request the support of the NZDF.

Specific information regarding the capability and training of D Squadron (Commando) is withheld as its release would likely prejudice the security and defence of New Zealand. This is in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

[6]. *What proven intelligence principles is your work based on?*

The NZDF Principles of Intelligence are summarised as:

- Leadership – appropriate prioritising of resources by leadership
- Centralised Control – promotes efficient use of resources
- Timely – intelligence is provided to users when it is needed
- Objective – intelligence must be as objective as possible
- Predictive – intelligence is focused on a future timeframe relevant to requirements
- All-source – relevant information is drawn and corroborated from multiple sources
- Continuously Reviewed – ensures information is accurate and relevant
- Source Protection – sources must be protected to avoid undue risk

[7]. *Who is the NZDF's on-hand cultural advisor/negotiator/facilitator for:*

- a. *On-going strategy*
- b. *Emergency Situations*

The NZDF does not have an *on-hand cultural advisor/negotiator/facilitator*. Within the context of your request, the NZ Police would likely be the lead agency when responding to *Emergency Situations*, such as a terrorist incident within New Zealand.

[8]. *What is the ethnic cultural composition over the periods A, B, C and D of your*

- a. *senior management*
- b. *senior operational staff*

[9]. *What diverse perspectives have been embraced and resulted in reform of organisational culture that promotes diverse experiences and perspectives?*

Enclosed are responses to earlier requests for information on ethnicity and diversity within the NZDF. Personal information is withheld to protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

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

Yours sincerely



**A.J. WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosures:**

1. Response of 11 July 2019 regarding training
2. Response of 1 April 2019 regarding diversity
3. Response of 9 August 2019 regarding ethnicity and diversity