

OIA-2014-2037

8 April 2014

**J.D. Graham**

[fyi-request-1574-e4daecdf@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-1574-e4daecdf@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear J.D. Graham

I refer to your email of 27 March 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*information relating to the security of Defence Force officers when travelling overseas and the NZDF's jurisdiction in terms of approving or not approving travel to countries of risk.*

Defence Force Order 3, Part 8, Paragraph 8.8.22 requires all members of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to contact the Directorate of Defence Security when travelling to a country deemed a 'special security risk'. There are hazards in particular countries for those who are, or have been in NZDF or Government service who may be thought to possess classified information.

The Directorate of Defence Security routinely carries out security briefing and debriefing of members of the NZDF and the circumstances of such are at the discretion of the briefing officer.

The NZDF can prevent a member of the Armed Forces from travelling to a particular country by way of an Order where it was deemed that there would be a significantly high threat to the physical security of the individual if they were revealed to be a member of the NZDF.

Pursuant to sections 6(a) and 6(b) of the OIA, the NZDF is withholding the 'restricted list' of countries. The release of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand and prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or agency of such a Government.

Pursuant to Section 28(3) of the OIA you have the right to complain to an Ombudsman about my response to your request.

Yours sincerely



**T.J. KEATING**

Lieutenant General  
Chief of Defence Force