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New Zealand Defence Force
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Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4635

13 March 2023

Adam Irish

fyi-request-21815-572b3315@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Adam Irish

I refer to your email of 13 February 2023 seeking information about the capabilities of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), specifically: *to intercept or bring down spy balloons or reconnaissance aircraft in New Zealand airspace, is it able to currently undertake this task...if the NZDF has the capability to detect foreign spy objects in New Zealand airspace, like those detected by the USA airforce...if New Zealand has access to the Australian airforce to bring down an object in New Zealand airspace.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Information on the capabilities of the NZDF that can be made public is available on the NZDF website under "Ā mātou taputapu our equipment". The NZDF does not have the capability to intercept/"bring down" spy balloons or reconnaissance aircraft in New Zealand airspace. Details on specific surveillance capabilities are withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

The NZDF, particularly through the Royal New Zealand Air Force, maintains close ties with the Royal Australian Air Force to foster a strong relationship and enhance regional security, but cannot comment on the capabilities or actions of other nations.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF