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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

21 February 2024

Jorja

fyi-request-25483-d7ec60fc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jorja

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 23 January, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Copies of any briefings, reports, memos, or aides-memoire that have been commissioned by the Minister in relation to the conflict in Gaza since 7 October 2023*
- *Copies of any briefings, reports, memos, or aides-memoire that have been provided to senior Ministry officials in relation to the conflict in Gaza since 7 October 2023*
- *Copies of any meeting agendas, minutes, or notes regarding meetings that have been attended by the Minister in relation to the conflict in Gaza since 7 October 2023, including Agency and Officials meetings*
- *Copies of any meeting agendas, minutes, or notes regarding meetings that have been attended by senior Ministry officials in relation to the conflict in Gaza since 7 October 2023, including Agency and Officials meetings*

Five briefings to the Minister of Defence have been identified as within the scope of your request. These are enclosed. The table below outlines the details of these documents.

No	Date	Title
1	13 October	<i>New Zealand Defence Force Support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Israel</i>
2	14 October	<i>New Zealand Defence Force Deployment to Support the Assisted Departure of New Zealanders from Israel and Middle East</i>
3	18 October	<i>Update: New Zealand Defence Force Deployment to Support the Assisted Departure of New Zealanders from Israel and Middle East</i>

4	21 October	<i>New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Deployments in Response to the Israel-Gaza Situation: Task Element</i>
5	17 November	<i>New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Deployments in Response to the Israel-Gaza Situation: Extension of Task Element</i>

In addition to the written briefings above, one meeting was found to be in scope of your request. The meeting took place on 2 November and was attended virtually by the Acting Minister of Defence and the Secretary of Defence. An agenda for this meeting is enclosed.

Some information has been withheld in accordance with the following sections of the Act:

- to protect the security or the international relations of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- to protect information entrusted to the New Zealand Government by other countries' Governments [section 6(b)(i)].

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

Richard Schmidt
Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning

Enclosed:

1. Briefing to the Minister of Defence: *New Zealand Defence Force Support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Israel*, 13 October 2023
2. Briefing to the Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs: *New Zealand Defence Force Deployment to Support the Assisted Departure of New Zealanders from Israel and Middle East*, 14 October 2023
3. Briefing to the Minister of Defence and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs: *Update: New Zealand Defence Force Deployment to Support the Assisted Departure of New Zealanders from Israel and Middle East*, 18 October 2023
4. Briefing to the Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs: *New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Deployments in Response to the Israel-Gaza*, 21 October 2023
5. Agenda: *Israel-Gaza – Briefing (Zoom)*, 2 November 2023
6. Briefing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence: *New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Deployments in Response to the Israel-Gaza Situation: Extension of Task Element*, 17 December 2023