

OIA-2017-2665

2 April 2017

Mr Andy Mackay

fyi-request-5478-cb4318f5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Mackay

I refer to your email of 1 March 2017 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *copies of all NZDF documentation relating to RNZAF Safety Reporting System Event 2323/16 reported [in] AUG16 and involving an inadvertent 4-year cumulative exposure to toxic chemicals and/or fumes at Whenuapai Airbase.*

Your request is more closely connected with the work of the New Zealand Defence Force, so the Ministry transferred your request to the Defence Force, pursuant to s.14(b)(ii) of the OIA, on 3 March 2017.

You also requested *details of any advice received from Worksafe NZ in relation to this event, and details of the chemicals involved, including any DASH analysis relating to the scope and severity of exposure.*

You next requested *details of the scope of medical tests carried out on personnel, including a list of any specific chemicals tested for, and any non-identifying details of the results.*

Lastly, you asked for *details on rectification action(s) carried out since AUG16.*

The documents you have requested have been collected and, after due consideration, are being prepared for release to you. Redactions to these documents are to be made under ss. 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to protect individuals' privacy and the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression and exchange of opinions by and between employees of the Defence Force in the course of their duty.

There are hundreds of pages of documents being prepared for release, which is likely to take another three to four weeks, approximately. In addition, and also because of the sheer volume of the material involved, I request that you provide a mailing address to which the documents you have requested may be sent.

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH

Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF