



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
Defence House  
Private Bag 39997  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2024-5144

24 October 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 September 2024 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information relating to fire alerting sirens used on the Bases and Camps operated by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Your request was transferred to the NZDF in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

*How many NZ Defence Bases utilise sirens as a fire warning for a base fire?*

*How many NZ Defence Bases utilise a base trained fire station crew?*

*How many NZ Defence Bases rely on a Civilian based fire station crew?*

*How many NZ Defence Bases utilise a three-phase powered siren?*

Information about the use of sirens for fire alerting, and the emergency responders on NZDF Bases and Camps, is provided in the table below. The second column indicates the presence of a siren in addition to, or instead of, structure-specific alarms. All locations with sirens utilise a three-phase siren. Emergency response at Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Woodbourne and Burnham Military Camp is provided by NZDF fire crews, with support from civilian Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) when required.

Base or Camp	Fire warning sirens	Emergency response
Devonport	No	FENZ
Auckland	Yes	NZDF
Papakura	No	FENZ
Waiouru	Yes	NZDF
Ohakea	Yes	NZDF
Linton	No	NZDF and FENZ
Trentham	No	FENZ
Woodbourne	Yes	NZDF and FENZ
Burnham	Yes	NZDF and FENZ

*Can NZ Defence identify a "policy" of standard equipment deployment for the purposes of fire siren alerting?*

*Can you advise if NZ Defence has a policy to review current base fire alerting with new technologies for fire alerting?*

All NZDF Bases and Camps are required to have a siren or alarm as a part of their Emergency Response Plan (ERP) as stated in Defence Force Instruction 0.71: "An ERP must include fire protection/detection warning and alarm systems". There is no policy to review the technology used in currently installed fire alarms or sirens on NZDF Bases and Camps.

*Can you advise if fire emergency altering is an integrated function of a base security system?*

Details of NZDF Base and Camp security systems are withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA, as making it available would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand.

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](http://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