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OIA-2022-4591

27 January 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 12 December 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

1. *When will the Devonport Naval Base Swimming Pool be made available to the public?*
2. *Copies of any health and safety reviews undertaken on the swimming pool?*

The Devonport Naval Base Swimming Pool will not be made available to the public as it currently sits within a secure fence line and therefore subject to security restrictions in accordance with Defence Force Regulations and Orders.

The agreement with the Devonport Swim Club is being reviewed. The agreement allowed club members to utilise the swimming pool, however it was suspended at the beginning of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is being reconsidered from a safety and security perspective as part of a broader process and procedure review at the Devonport Naval Base, which is expected to conclude this year. The agreement was also subject to a licence which contained requirements for clearances and other obligations. Outcomes from the reviews are likely to require updates to any licences.

The Defence Directorate of Safety required that all New Zealand Defence Force pool operators review Risk Management Plans to ensure these were up-to-date with Health and Safety obligations and intent.

On 21 April 2022, a review of the Devonport Naval Base Risk Management Plan occurred by workshop. This resulted in the introduction of lifeguards under a contracted arrangement and trialled hours of operation in line with the current Health and Safety Act 2015. The base policy and processes will be updated in 2023 in line with the final changes trialled, proven and introduced.

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