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New Zealand Defence Force
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OIA-2023-4600

13 February 2023

[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to the email sent to you on 12 and 17 January 2023, under the OIA, parts of your request were transferred to NZSIS and MBIE respectively. Responses to the other parts of your request are answered below.

-Did any of the people who were brought here under these circumstances have their contract with NZDF terminated before coming to New Zealand? If so, how many? Please provide their job title and the reason for contract termination.

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel deployed to the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team withdrew from Afghanistan in 2013, and all NZDF personnel withdrew from Afghanistan in May 2021. There were no locally employed contractors working with the NZDF at the time of the Taliban takeover in August 2021. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

-Has the NZDF received any advice or reports of concern, from anywhere (including New Zealand and other government agencies, community workers, NZDF staff, people brought from Afghanistan to NZ), about the security risk posed by individuals or groups brought to NZ from Afghanistan since the 2021 Taliban takeover?

With respect to the Cabinet criteria for those seeking resettlement from Afghanistan, the NZDF was responsible for advising the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade whether or not an applicant worked directly with the NZDF, or was employed by a third party that worked alongside the NZDF. Accordingly, the NZDF did not directly receive any advice or reports of concern about the security risk posed by an applicant.

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