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New Zealand Defence Force
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OIA-2023-4779

15 August 2023

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Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 17 July 2023 to the Ministry of Defence. Your request, which was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) requests the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. The NZDF has deployed training teams to the United Kingdom to create "battle casualty replacements" for the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). There have been reports that some of those receiving training have been conscripted. Have any conscripts been included in the NZDF's training in the UK?*
- 2. A condition in the recently released Cabinet paper on the NZDF training deployment to the UK was to suspend the deployment and conduct a revised risk assessment should it become known that members of the AFU were not conducting themselves lawfully. Following credible reports, e.g. by Amnesty International, that members of the AFU have violated international humanitarian law, has the deployment ever been suspended and a revised risk assessment carried out?*

The NZDF does not hold information regarding the means by which personnel enter the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). Since the initial human rights risk assessment, carried out at the beginning of support to the British Army's training of AFU personnel, no specific or substantial reports of unlawful conduct by AFU personnel have been received by the NZDF.

Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(g) of the OIA.

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