



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

OIA-2023-4834

21 October 2023



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 25 October 2023 seeking further explanation of the response of 24 October 2023.

As you noted in your request of 25 September 2023, *Health NZ tells me (see attached) they "might have" (apparently they can't remember) shared copies of the arrivals forms or parts of the arrivals form with among other agencies, the NZ defence force.* To clarify, if New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel had received any relevant information it was in connection with the management of Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) as the lead and supported agency. Since the NZDF was not responsible for the information from New Zealand arrival cards, there are no NZDF policies or documents *relating to the use of question 17 in any investigation, warning, charging decision or prosecution.*

NZDF practice is to consult with other agencies before transferring a request in order to confirm that a transfer is appropriate. The decision on your request was communicated on the twentieth working day because staff processing your request were not fully aware of where information from Operation Protect (the operational name for NZDF support to the all-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic) was held. As a result, consultation with MBIE did not take place within 10 working days of receipt of your request and unfortunately MBIE had not responded to the NZDF before the twentieth working day.

The response of 24 October 2023 stated that all information (including emails) previously held by the NZDF concerning MIQ facilities was transferred to MBIE as the lead agency. This includes policy and processes for MIQ coordination, facility/hotel management, security management, and information on returnees (including complaints and investigations and incidents and investigations).

You retain the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review the 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