



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

OIA-2024-4956

/ / April 2024



Dear 

I refer to your email of 11 March 2024 to the Ministry of Defence. Your email was forwarded to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for consideration under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) as your request below is more closely associated with the functions of the NZDF:

*....we are conducting research on the efficacy of international humanitarian law or the law of armed conflicts in terms of its dissemination by states. For this purpose, we are collecting state military manuals whether general or specific in nature.*

*Our goal with this research is to show how many states possess these documents, and how states adopt, and build up their military manuals in terms of structure, content, and details.*

*Based on the above, we are kindly requesting information on*

- 1. whether your state possesses one or more military manuals,*
- 2. if yes, then how many and what is the basis of division,*
- 3. how the military manual was adopted and*
- 4. if your state does not possess such a manual, are you planning on adopting one.*

The NZDF has only one formal manual on the Laws of Armed Conflict (LOAC). This is Defence Manual (DM) 69, Vol 4. Other NZDF manuals and military doctrine publications refer readers back to DM 69 Vol 4.

DM 69 Vol 4 was developed by the then head of the NZDF Legal Services, an internationally recognised expert on the LOAC. It is an order issued by New Zealand's Chief of Defence Force under section 27 of the Defence Act 1990. The document is publicly available via the following link: <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/DM-69-2ed-vol4.pdf>

Responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF