



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

OIA-2024-4979

17 April 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 18 March 2024 to the Prime Minister, requesting information about the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel recently deployed in support of military action against Houthi targets. Your request for was transferred to the NZDF for response in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) as your request is more closely aligned with the functions of the NZDF.

You have particularly requested the following:

1. *Are the aforementioned soldiers still stationed in the region?*
2. *Have any additional soldiers been deployed to the area?*
3. *Have there been any reports of casualties or injuries among the deployed soldiers?*
4. *Are the soldiers solely engaged in operations in the Red Sea, or have they been deployed to Israel as well?*
5. *What is the estimated cost associated with this deployment?*

Information concerning the deployment of up to six NZDF personnel until no later than 31 July 2024 is publicly available in the Cabinet material on the Ministry of Defence website: <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/publication/Proposed-New-Zealand-Defence-Force-Contribution-to-Military-Action-Against-Houthi-Targets>

Where indicated in the material, specific operational information is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA in order to avoid prejudice to the security and defence of New Zealand and/or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand. There have been no casualties or injuries among the deployed NZDF personnel.

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