



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

OIA-2024-5047

26 June 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 26 May 2024 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all written advice and reports arising from New Zealand Defence Force engagement with Project Convergence 2024*. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force in accordance with the OIA.

Observations and lessons learned provide specific information on the tactics, techniques and procedures used by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for their improvement. For this reason, observations and lessons learned for this exercise are withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA. After action/post-activity reports generally serve as summaries of these.

The Minute reporting on the Army's participation in Project Convergence 2024 is not yet complete; it is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs. To meet the public interest, the following extract from the conclusion of the draft report is provided. Information directly related to our partners and future planning is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA:

Project Convergence has proven itself a crucial experiment and exercise, enabling New Zealand to validate and demonstrate emerging military capabilities in a FVEY interoperable testbed and conduct interoperability testing alongside our ally and multinational forces. Framed through a context of increased geo-political competition in our region, this endeavour highlights the significance of integrated and combined military operations [withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA]. We appreciate the mutual exchange of outcomes and data, which deepen our strategic alliance and enhance our collective defence posture. [withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA]. We are committed to ensuring our forces remain versatile, responsive and operationally aligned through this engagement.

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