



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

OIA-2025-5562

24th October 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 1 August 2025 to the New Zealand Police regarding *a Police call out to a 75mm (or 76mm) tank shell located on the beach near Parkakariki, Wellington*. Your questions, listed below, were transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for response under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

1. *If the bomb I found was inert, why wasn't it returned to me? What happened to it?*

The item was removed for disposal as scrap following consultation with Police at the scene.

2. *Did the Bomb Disposal Team use this as training and just detonate a bit of explosive for practice?*

No.

3. *What was exploded?*
4. *Please acknowledge that there was a controlled explosion, what was exploded and why it would be necessary to destroy inert objects if that was what was done.*

The item could not be positively identified due to excessive corrosion. A serviceable explosive charge was placed and detonated next to the item. It was confirmed as inert after the detonation had removed the corrosion.

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

GA Motley
Brigadier
Chief of Staff HQNZDF