



10 December 2024

[REDACTED]
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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2024/25-0397

Official Information Act request: Briefings related to the meetings between Australia & New Zealand security and defence officials in September 2024

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 30 October 2024. You requested:

"[1] All formal written briefings provided for, and all formal messages arising from, a meeting between Secretary Ben King and Secretary Greg Moriarty, Department of Defence of Australia, held on 17 September 2024.

[2] All formal written briefings provided for, and all formal messages arising from, the Australia New Zealand National Security Dialogue, held in September 2024."

The timeframe for responding to part 1 of your request was extended under section 15A of the Act. I am now in a position to respond to this part of your request.

Information being released

One document in scope of your request is the briefing to me, Secretary Ben King, ahead of my meeting with Secretary Greg Moriarty. I have decided to release this, subject to information being withheld under the following grounds:

- section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- section 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Information to be withheld

The other document in scope of part 1 is a Formal Message entitled "MFAT and DPMC Secretaries Visit Canberra". I have decided to withhold this in full, under the following grounds:

- section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- section 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Ben King
Chief Executive

Secretary Greg Moriarty, Defence

Date and time Tuesday 17 September, 11.30am – 12.00pm

Venue Secretary's office, Russell Offices

NZ attendees CAPT Blair Gerritsen (Defence Advisor), Eamonn O'Shaughnessy or Georgina Sargison

Key objectives

- s 6(a)

- s 6(a)

Biography



Greg Moriarty has led the Department of Defence since 2017, and was appointed for a second 5-year term in 2022. He first worked in Defence from 1986 -1994, primarily in the Defence Intelligence Organisation, and in US Central Command in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Prior to his appointment as Secretary, Mr Moriarty held senior roles in the Prime Minister's office, first as the National Security Adviser and then as Chief of Staff to then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. He has also acted as the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, and has extensive experience in DFAT, including as Deputy Secretary, Ambassador to Indonesia, and Ambassador to Iran.

Talking Points

- Share New Zealand's alignment on current geostrategic challenges and our strong commitment to partnering with Australia, including through defence interoperability and complementarity.
- Note that work continues on options for the Defence Capability Plans s 9(2)(f)(iv)
[Redacted] . s 6(a)
[Redacted]
- [Redacted] s6(b)(i)
[Redacted]
- Seek views from Secretary Moriarty on the challenges of implementing the Whole of Government NDS, including any lessons learned that New Zealand could learn from.
[Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted]
- s 6(a) [Redacted] We are coordinating closely with a range of Australian and US counterparts to understand the scope of the Pillar 2. It's important to us that New Zealand remains a credible ally and partner.
- [Redacted] s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
[Redacted]
- s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Background

- Underpinning all strands of the Defence relationship is the Australia-NZ Alliance, based on the ANZUS Treaty. Officials on both sides of the Tasman recognise the need to modernise the Alliance to ensure it effectively supports our shared security today and into the future, and to better articulate publicly the Alliance's nature and value. Defence has made significant progress in this area, alongside Department of Defence officials. However, the question of the Alliance is a far broader one and needs cross-agency input. s 9(2)(g)(i)
[Redacted]

- s 6(a)
[Redacted] New Zealand Ministers agreed to publicly recognise that a cyber-attack could invoke our obligations under the ANZUS Alliance. This recognition clarified existing obligations and did not represent a change in the nature of the Alliance. This recognition was captured in the joint statement by Prime Ministers as part of the ANZLM.

- [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

- [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- [Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)

- [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

AUKUS

- In April, AUKUS members announced a pathway for participation in Pillar II for potential partners. We greatly appreciate the ongoing engagement that we have had with AUKUS members on how New Zealand could potentially participate. s 6(a), s 6(b)(i)
- s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Defence Capability Plan (DCP)

- s 9(2)(f)(iv) Work continues on the development of the plan itself. The Plan, once finalised, will outline the Government's future investment intentions for Defence to 2040
- s9(2)(f)(iv)
- s9(2)(g)(i)

Australia's National Defence Strategy (NDS) / Integrated Investment Program (IIP)

- Australia's 2024 NDS reaffirmed that Australia is facing its most challenging strategic environment since the Second World War, that Australia's strategic circumstances have continued to deteriorate, and that Australia no longer enjoys the benefit of a 10-year window of strategic warning time for conflict.
- s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982