



10 September 2021



Ref: OIA-2021/22-0118

Dear 

**Official Information Act request relating to a potentially fraudulent email and operation Kea**

Thank you for your letter and Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 16 August 2021. In your letter, you referenced an email identified as being produced by the Prime Minister, and you requested:

*“Can you confirm or deny that this email is not a forgery?  
Can you inform me what Operation Kea is?”*

Your letter also referenced the email being enclosed with your letter, however, no such document was received by us.

We have checked our records, and we have consulted with the Office of the Prime Minister to identify if they hold such an email. However, upon a search of both our systems and theirs, no such email has been identified to be held. Therefore, I must refuse this part of your request under section 18(g)(i), as the information you requested is not held by us, nor do we have reason to believe it is held by another department or Minister.

I understand that the name Operation KEA is historical, it is not a current operation. It refers to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel who were deployed to Afghanistan and assumed staff officer positions in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters in Kabul, and Instructor/Mentor and support staff roles at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in partnership with the United Kingdom, Australia and Denmark (also in Kabul). Operation KEA was active during the time that the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team operated in Bamyán Province, Afghanistan. Mandated by the Government of New Zealand, Operation KEA started in October 2006 and ended in October 2014.

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 DPMC’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.

Yours sincerely

Tony Lynch  
**Deputy Chief Executive  
National Security Group**