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OIA-2022-4566

17 December 2022

[redacted]
[redacted]@gmail.com

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 15 November 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

how many leave without pay (LWOP) requests have been approved by the NZDF from January, 2020 until now across all services (grouped yearly).

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does not record leave without pay (LWOP) data in a way that corresponds to your request. In order to address your request from the data that is recorded, enclosure 1 provides yearly groups for when approved LWOP started and when that period ended. For the New Zealand Army for example, there was one approved LWOP request that started in 2018 and that ended in 2020. Similarly, there were three approved LWOP requests that started in 2022 and will end in 2024.

Personnel who take multiple instances of LWOP (whether in the same year or a different year) will be counted multiple times, e.g. if an individual has two separate LWOP requests in 2020, they will be counted twice, if they have three LWOP requests over this period, they will be counted three times.

the amount of covid cases that have occurred between January, 2021 up until now (grouped monthly across all services).

The table below outlines the number of COVID-19 cases for uniformed personnel within the NZDF as at 24 November 2022. The number of COVID-19 cases within the NZDF follows national case trends.

Date	Cases
Jan-2021	2
Feb-2021	0
Mar-2021	3
Apr-2021	12
May-2021	0
Jun-2021	4
Jul-2021	2
Aug-2021	4
Sep-2021	4
Oct-2021	11
Nov-2021	9
Dec-2021	7

Jan-2022	101
Feb-2022	209
Mar-2022	1405
Apr-2022	882
May-2022	773
Jun-2022	556
Jul-2022	814
Aug-2022	315
Sep-2022	93
Oct-2022	169
Nov-2022	134

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

Enclosure:

1. Count of Leave Without Pay Requests (LWOP), 1 January 2020 to 22 November 2022 by calendar year and Service.

Enclosure 1:

		LWOP Requests by End Date (Year)					
	Arm / Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
LWOP Requests by Start Date (Year)	RNZN	27	17	13	15	1	73
	2019	14					14
	2020	13	1				14
	2021		16	8			24
	2022			5	15	1	21
	NZ ARMY	91	67	110	44	3	315
	2018	1					1
	2019	48	1	2			51
	2020	42	23				65
	2021		43	43	5		91
	2022			65	39	3	107
	RNZAF	69	39	31	12	3	154
	2018	6					6
	2019	20	3				23
	2020	43	11	2	1		57
	2021		25	10	3	1	39
	2022			19	8	2	29
	CIVILIAN	7	12	14	5	1	39
	2019	5					5
	2020	2	2	1			5
2021		10	7	1		18	
2022			6	4	1	11	
	Grand Total	194	135	168	76	8	581