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OIA-2023-4696

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[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 14 April 2023 submitting a series of questions following the response to Jaeger Sims of 13 April 2023. Your questions are answered below, with questions 4 and 5 considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

It appears that all eight incidents happened in Palmerston North, and the majority revolved around drugs or alcohol.

1. *Is the Palmerston area worse for substance type offending by NZDF personnel than other places?*

No, there are relatively low levels of substance abuse across the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). When issues are discovered, they usually involve an individual or small number of individuals who socialise together. It is not unusual for the NZDF to see small clusters within a particular area or region. Linton/Ohakea represents a large NZDF footprint, which contributes to more issues in comparison with other areas.

2. *Is a culture of drug and alcohol use entrenched at Linton Military camp.*

There is no evidence to suggest an 'entrenched culture' of drug and alcohol use at Linton. Issues do arise at all locations but are either dealt with via medical support or through the disciplinary process.

3. *Given issues with staff attrition including for MPs, do these figures reflect a lack of enforcement in other parts of the country?*

The Military Police have been heavily impacted by attrition and retention issues, as have many parts of the NZDF. However, enforcement of NZDF orders, rules and regulations is not only the responsibility of the NZDF Military Police. Every Non-Commissioned Officer, Warrant Officer and Officer has a responsibility to ensure good discipline is maintained.

4. *How does the figure of eight arrests compare to previous years?*
5. *How many people were arrested each year over the last 10 years?*

The eight arrests referred to in the response of 13 April 2023 were for the period 25 March 2022 to 28 March 2023, with six arrests in 2022 and two in 2023. Ten arrests were made in total in 2022. Refer to the following table for arrests over the past ten years.

Year	Arrests
2013	11
2014	17
2015	14
2016	24
2017	14
2018	4
2019	12
2020	9
2021	5
2022	10
2023	2

6. I'm noting [Stuff](#) has reported the Daily Bar and Nighclub was the subject of a ban for NZDF personnel. Is this still in place? If so, it appears military staff are still attending the premises. How is this possible.

The order prohibiting members of the NZDF from attending the Daily Bar in Palmerston North was rescinded on the 16th of October 2020. The use of banning orders remains an option should there be any future increase in incidents. The NZDF continues to expect its personnel to display a high standard of behaviour at all times, in line with NZDF values.

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