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New Zealand Defence Force
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Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4859

// December 2023

Amy Taylor
fyi-request-24725-e7085cb5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy Taylor

I refer to your email of 13 November 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), as follows:

- 1. Does the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) consider membership in Freemasons New Zealand during the recruiting and promotion processes for NZDF personnel?*
- 2. If Freemasons New Zealand membership is taken into account in the recruiting and promotion processes, what impact does such membership have on the assessment of an individual's suitability for recruitment or promotion within the NZDF?*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does not record any information related to NZDF personnel freemason membership. The minimum requirements to join the NZDF are outlined on the NZDF Defence Careers website¹, just click on 'how to join' from the below link. Promotional processes are solely based on individual performance. Therefore, Freemason membership has no impact on personnel recruitment or promotional processes.

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.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

¹ <https://defencecareers.mil.nz/defence-careers/>