



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
Defence House  
Private Bag 39997  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2024-4922

4 March 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 8 December 2024 to Andrew Bayly MP, which was passed to the Office of Hon Dr Shane Reti, regarding vaccination requirements for New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel. Your email was then transferred from Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora to the NZDF for response in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) as aspects of your request are more closely associated with the functions of the NZDF.

*.... my main concern is my 18 year old son who is doing military prep training in view of applying to go into the Navy has been told he must be vaccinated against the Covid virus which is not going to happen. So does this mean my son has lost his dream of joining the NZ Navy?*

Members of the Armed Forces are required to meet individual readiness requirements, which include vaccinations as set out in the NZDF Vaccination Schedule. The schedule includes vaccinations against a range of diseases such as: measles; polio; hepatitis; diphtheria; tetanus; and COVID-19. This is to ensure the readiness of its members to act as and when the Government requires.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF