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OIA-2024-4944

28 March 2024

Steven Derrik
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Dear Steven Derrik

I refer to your email of 3 March 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *deployability data for the Nzdf by rank. Provide this from LTGEN (E) down to PTE (E) there is no requirement for OCDT(E) or Recruit (E). For this please show fitness, medical, annual weapons qualifications and security clearances*

Fit for Service data, broken down by rank, is enclosed. A breakdown of Fit for Service by the criteria requested is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the security and defence of New Zealand.

Note, the Fit for Service data is a snapshot in time and the numbers will fluctuate depending on individual readiness. There are 19 criteria which NZDF personnel are assessed against when determining if they are fit for operational service and for a particular mission. These criteria include citizenship, passport, licences, security clearance, qualifying standards for physical, medical, vaccination and dental, plus other criteria such as weapons proficiency and trade qualifications. If an individual is identified for deployment, individual readiness checks are conducted and any outstanding issues are worked through to ensure the requirements for the deployment are met. Being listed as 'unfit' means that an individual may not have met all the relevant criteria at that point in time, but that does not mean they are 'unfit' in the traditional use of the word, or that they cannot meet the conditions for deployment.

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

Enclosure:

1. Fit for Service data, as at 29 February 2024.

Enclosure 1

Table A. Headcount of Regular Force personnel¹, as at 29 February 2024, who meet the 'Fit For Service' criteria for service within New Zealand (FFS NZ)² and who meet the 'Fit For Service' criteria for international deployment (FFS DEPLOY)³

| | FFS NZ FIT | FFS NZ UNFIT | FFS NZ % | FFS DEPLOY FIT | FFS DEPLOY UNFIT | FFS DEPLOY % |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| PTE (E) | 1195 | 482 | 71.3% | 879 | 798 | 52.4% |
| LCPL (E) | 985 | 290 | 77.3% | 906 | 369 | 71.1% |
| CPL (E) | 813 | 329 | 71.2% | 737 | 405 | 64.5% |
| SGT (E) | 588 | 293 | 66.7% | 543 | 338 | 61.6% |
| SSGT (E) | 460 | 323 | 58.7% | 414 | 369 | 52.9% |
| WO2 (E) | 95 | 79 | 54.6% | 79 | 95 | 45.4% |
| WO1 (E) | 175 | 144 | 54.9% | 160 | 159 | 50.2% |
| 2LT (E) | 81 | 26 | 75.7% | 65 | 42 | 60.7% |
| LT (E) | 241 | 59 | 80.3% | 208 | 92 | 69.3% |
| CAPT (E) | 411 | 163 | 71.6% | 385 | 189 | 67.1% |
| MAJ (E) | 355 | 269 | 56.9% | 328 | 296 | 52.6% |
| LTCOL (E) | 159 | 142 | 52.8% | 137 | 164 | 45.5% |
| COL (E) | 50 | 29 | 63.3% | 44 | 35 | 55.7% |
| BRIG (E) + | 15 | 13 | 53.6% | 13 | 15 | 46.4% |
| TOTAL | 5623 | 2641 | 68.0% | 4898 | 3366 | 59.3% |

¹ Excludes OCDT(E) and Recruits.

² FFS NZ criteria include: fitness, security clearance, and medical.

³ FFS DEPLOY criteria include: fitness, security clearance, medical, dental and passport.