



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

OIA-2024-4947

22 March 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 4 March 2024 to the Ministry of Defence requesting information about recruitment into the New Zealand Armed Services. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for response in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) as your request is more closely associated with the functions of the NZDF.

*(1) Do you keep records of recruits' previous experience including secondary schooling?*

Individuals applying to join the Armed Services provide information, including information about schooling, in their CV and/or academic transcript, and in an NZDF interview.

*(2) If so, please advise, relating to the three most recent years for which you have data: how many new recruits into any defence forces have come from other uniformed services, such as Police, Fire and Emergency services, or paramedic services, and from organisations such as Scouts, and NZ Cadet Forces?*

While individuals may disclose previous experience in other uniformed services during the application process, the NZDF does not collate this specific information centrally or separately. A substantial research effort would be required to review each application file to obtain information related to experience in the *New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, paramedic services, or Scouts New Zealand*. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require a substantial research and collation effort.

The NZDF holds Information on applicants' previous experience with the NZ Cadet Forces, subject to the applicant having disclosed the information during the application process. The below table shows the number of individuals who disclosed they had been members of the NZ Cadet Forces prior to attesting into the Royal New Zealand Air Force, the New Zealand Army or the Royal New Zealand Navy between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2023.

Service	2021	2022	2023
Air Force	9	21	4
Army	37	48	17
Navy	9	13	10
Total	55	82	31

*(3) Relating to the three most recent years for which you have data: how many new recruits into any defence forces have undergone Services Academy experience in secondary schools at any time in the past?*

Again, individuals may choose to disclose this information during the NZDF application process. The below table shows the number of applicants who disclosed experience with service academies who attested into the NZDF between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2023.

<b>Service</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Air Force</b>	3	2	0
<b>Army</b>	13	23	9
<b>Navy</b>	13	6	4
<b>Total</b>	29	31	13

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.

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