

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

OIA-2024-5018

30 July 2024



Dear

I refer to your email of 13 May 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about Courts Martial, summary trials and inappropriate behaviour at Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Base Ohakea. I apologise for the considerable amount of time it has taken to provide this response.

How many court martials or summary hearings were held in 2023 for personnel based in the Air Force at Ōhakea?

In 2023, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) held four Summary Trials and two Courts Martial for personnel at RNZAF Base Ohakea.

Are there any scheduled for 2024?

At the time of your request, there have been no Courts Martial or summary trials set down in 2024.

What were the charges for each of these, what rank were the personnel involved and what were the outcomes for each?

The below table provides the relevant information for the four Summary Trials held at RNZAF Base Ohakea in 2023:

Rank	Charges	Outcome	
Leading Aircraftsman	Avoidance of duty contrary to the Armed Forces Defence Act (AFDA) section 49(a).	fine - \$331.00; 7 days stoppage of leave	
Sergeant	1st & 4th charges: doing an act likely to bring discredit on the service to which they belong contrary to AFDA section 73(1)(b); 2nd & 3rd charges: committing a civil offence contrary to AFDA section 74(1) namely using a mobile phone whilst driving contrary to land transport (road user) rule 2004 section 7.3a(1)(d).	fine - \$150.00; caution	
Leading Aircraftsman	1st charge: doing an act likely to prejudice service discipline contrary to AFDA section 73(1)(a); 2nd charge: failing to comply with written orders contrary to AFDA section 39(b).	fine - \$556.20	
Sergeant  1st charge & 2nd charges: committing a civil offence contrary to AFDA s 74(1), namely smoking a class C controlled drug contrary to section 7(1)(a) and (2)(b) of the misuse of drugs act 1975, 12 months stay of seniority.		fine - \$400.00; reprimand	

The below table provides the relevant information for the two Courts Martial held at RNZAF Base Ohakea in 2023:

Rank	Charges	Outcome
Flying Officer	1 charge of indecent assault	dismissal
Flight	12 charges including but not limited to (indecent assault,	8 months'
Lieutenant	doing an act likely to prejudice service discipline, behaving in a	imprisonment
	disgraceful and indecent manner).	and dismissal.

How many complaints were made in 2023 about personnel in the Air Force behaving inappropriately to colleagues, including any sexual harrassment, sexual offences, and sexualised social behaviour?

On 13 June 2024, you refined this part of your request to the following:

How many complaints of a sexual nature, including any about sexual harassment, inappropriate language and unwanted touching of any kind, were made in 2023 about personnel in the Air Force based at Ōhakea?

Centralised reporting of incidents of sexual harassment and sexual offences<sup>1</sup> as provided by victims/survivors has been captured by the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). The table below provides the number of disclosures recorded from January to September 2023 for the RNZAF as a whole. Data is not available from October 2023. The system for disclosing sexual offences is designed around facilitating privacy and support for people who have experienced harmful sexual behaviours, not statistical reporting. These are recorded as either restricted or unrestricted disclosures and a breakdown just for RNZAF Base Ohakea is unavailable.

Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
7	4	11

These numbers do not necessarily correlate to individual incidents as a disclosure about a particular incident may be raised by more than one person. Of the disclosures reported above, three concerned indecent assault, two concerned sexual violation, and six concerned sexual harassment. One disclosure does not record the type of incident.

A restricted disclosure enables personnel to disclose their experience directly to a sexual assault prevention and response advisor (SAPRA) without the involvement of the chain of command, or Military Police, which under the Armed Forces Discipline Act would otherwise necessitate an investigation. This provides personnel who may not otherwise report the incident a way to come forward and receive appropriate support and information. Restricted disclosures can be amended to unrestricted later if the victim/survivor so wishes.

An unrestricted disclosure is made when a victim/survivor of sexual violence wishes the incident to be investigated by the relevant authority (this may be their Command, the NZDF Military Police or the New Zealand Police). An unrestricted disclosure is also investigated if other personnel are aware that such an incident has occurred.

With respect to the specifics of your request, as noted in the email to you of 5 June 2024, individuals within the NZDF have many avenues by which they can raise concerns about inappropriate behaviour, and data is not captured in a readily retrievable format. The best source for such information would be an individual's personal file, and given the considerable number of personnel at RNZAF Base Ohakea, a substantial research and collation effort would be required to identify the particular information requested. For this reason, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA, despite the refinement you provided.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sexual harassment as defined by the Human Rights Act (1993); and, sexual offences which are covered by a number of New Zealand Legislative Acts, including the Crimes Act (1961) and Harmful Digital Communications Act (2015).

Was any member of the Air Force disciplined in any way in 2023 for inappropriate sexual behaviour towards subordinates? If the answer is yes, can you please provide details of what the inappropriate behaviour was and the steps taken prior to disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action for personnel is only centrally recorded when it relates to a Summary Trial or Court Martial, and the details for those instances are provided in the tables above. Your request for details about any form of discipline for inappropriate sexual behaviour towards subordinates is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA for the same reason explained above.

Could I also request any memos, reports or briefing notes, including drafts, from 2023 and 2024 prepared for officials by the DF relating to inappropriate sexualised behaviour of air force personnel? And any letters, emails, telephone call logs or meeting notes sent or received by officials in 2023 or 2024 in relation to inappropriate sexual behaviour in the Air Force?

You will appreciate the handling of these matters generates a substantial amount of associated material, with much of it containing personal information. Your request for *any memos, reports or briefing notes* and *any letters, emails, telephone call logs or meeting notes* is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as any resulting information from an electronic search requires subsequent manual collation. If there is more specific information you are interested in, and your request can be refined accordingly, it will be reconsidered in that light.

With respect to correspondence concerning the Courts Martial, information related to legal proceedings, is legal advice, or is the seeking of legal advice, is withheld in full in accordance with section with section 9(2)(h) of the OIA to maintain legal professional privilege. Other correspondence concerning the Courts Martial is still undergoing consultation with our military partners. Information that is provided on a basis of confidence by our military partners will be withheld in accordance with section 6(b)(i) of the OIA. Personal information will also be withheld to protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. Once the consultation is complete, this correspondence will be provided to you.

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

From:

Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT

Sent:

Thursday, 23 February 2023 10:28 a.m.

To:

No worries, have responded to

s.6(b)(i)

LT Natacha Baugen (she/her), RNZN

Legal Advisor (Northern) 1, Defence Legal Services
Te Ope K??tua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

From: s 9(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2023 10:01 a.m.

To: Baugen, Natacha, LT < \$9(2)(a)

Subject: FW: 230207: Email - Air Force Witnesses - NZDF Court Martial [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hey Natacha,

Sorry to put more on your plate but would you mind handling this query please? I assume it is probably more a question for the clerk of the court but would mind handling getting that response back to s. 6(b)(i)

Thanks very much,

Vicki

s.9(2)(a)

Contractor - Legal Advisor - DLS, Defence Legal Services Te Ope K??tua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s.9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From:

Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2023 6:32 p.m.

To: \$ 9(2)(a

Subject: RE: 230207: Email - Air Force Witnesses - NZDF Court Martial [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Is there someone I can ask about whether or not there are Visa requirements for our personnel travelling? If there are, have they been advised of that by the person coordinating their travel?

Thanks again for your assistance.

d Regards, (ii)		



IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Wisstt, Natacha, LT < s.9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 14 February 2023 7:01 AM

To: s.6(b)(i)

Cc: s.9(2)(a), s.6(b)(i)

Subject: RE: 230207: Email - Air Force Witnesses - NZDF Court Martial [SEC=OFFICIAL]

??? **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ???

Kia ora s.6(b)(i)	
-------------------	--

I am the NZDF Legal Officer assigned as second counsel in this case. I have followed up on this matter at request, and can confirm that the RNZAF will fund 1 x RAAF Legal Officer to attend the trial under the same travel conditions as the witnesses.

Could you please provide me with the following details of the Legal Officer who will attend, so that the Clerk of the Court Martial can arrange travel?

Rank/Title	
Surname (as shown on passport)	
Given Names (as shown on passport)	
Mobile number	
Passport number	
Passport expiry	
Date of birth	
Address travelling from	
Dietary requirements	

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Kind regards,

LT Natacha Wisstt (she/her), RNZN

Legal Advisor (Northern) 1, Defence Legal Services Te Ope K??tua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s.9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



A FORCE FOR

s.6(b)(i) From:

Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 12:46 p.m.

To: s.9(2)(a)

Cc: s 6(b)(i)

Subject: FW: 230207: Email - Air Force Witnesses - NZDF Court Martial [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### **OFFICIAL**

Hi s 9(2)(a

We genuinley appreciate the explanation provided and measures in place to support our personnel (in understanding the process), throughout this Court Martial.

On reflection of the additional information provided by MAJ Blanks, s.6(b)(i)

would like to request an Air Force Uniform Legal officer attend the court martial.

We acknowledge that each Air Force witness has a ???support person???, however they are not necessary trained to understand this environment and their role is to be there for the witness at the time.

An Air Force Uniform Legal Officer will be able to understand the process and outcome, and provide Air Force Command with the potential impacts on each witness as a result of this experience for ongoing support and management.

We seek your agreement to allow an Air Force Uniform Legal Officer to attend the Court Martial, so that Air Force can understand how we can best support the ongoing welfare requirements of our members.

Kind Regards.

s. 6(b)(i)



Subject: FW: 230207: Email - Air Force Witnesses - NZDF Court Martial [SEC=OFFICIAL]

??? EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ???

Hello again,

Further to my last, I have now spoken with the Clerk of the Court and can confirm that he has been in touch via email with the three complainants and, through them, the three support people. All are in possession of their travel itineraries and understand the travel arrangements. They will all be accommodated at Whenuapai Air Base.

Those are the only ADF witnesses that will be travelling to NZ and giving evidence in person. I understand that there may be one additional witness who will give evidence via VTC.

Ng?? mihi,

### MAJ Grace Blanks, (she/her)

Legal Advisor, HQ NZDF
Te Ope K??tua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force s 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



THIS ADVICE MAY BE SUBJECT TO LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE AND IS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE AUTHOR

From: Blanks, Grace, MAJ

Sent: Thursday, 9 February 2023 11:54 a.m.

To: s.6(b)(i)

Cc: s.9(2)(a), s.6(b)(i)

Subject: RE: 230207: Email - Air Force Witnesses - NZDF Court Martial [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning s.6(b)(i)

Thank you for your email, it???s good to connect with you. I had been liaising with previously but that was some time ago now.

The court martial is set down for 6 March 2023 at Whenuapai Air Base in Auckland, New Zealand. We anticipate it will run for several days.

I have asked the Clerk of Court to give me a call for an update on the arrangements. He is responsible for coordinating the travel, accommodation, rationing etc. for witnesses. My understanding is that the three ADF complainants will be travelling to New Zealand for the trial and I believe they are being accommodated on base, alongside their chosen support people (though I will need to double check this). I will need to check if any other ADF witnesses are appearing in person.

I can confirm that the three complainants are each bringing a support person with them. Counsel for the prosecution consists of an experienced barrister in NZ???s civilian jurisdiction as lead counsel, and a uniformed NZDF Legal Officer as second counsel. They will provide the complainants with an explanation of the process ahead of time (and during the trial) and ensure they fully understand their part in the proceedings. The NZDF is also making Sexual Assault Prevention and Harassment Advisors (SAPRAs) available to the complainants both before and during the trial. These are civilian personnel employed by the NZDF who are trained in handling cases of sexual offending and supporting complainants. They often sit with complainants during trial to support them and assist with any questions they may have.

FYI, the below is information that I personally provided to each of the complainants in writing early on in the process. You may also find it useful background information on the NZ court martial process as it affects the ADF complainants:

- ??? In New Zealand, complainants of sexual offending have automatic name suppression. This means there is a blanket prohibition of your name or picture in the media, including social media.
- ??? If you are willing to give evidence there are generally a number of ways for you to do that. Some people prefer to give evidence in the courtroom. Others prefer to be behind a screen so they can???t see the accused, or appear via audiovisual link from another room or, indeed, from Australia.
- ??? Regardless of how you gave your evidence, when it was your turn to speak the courtroom would be completely cleared of all non-essential personnel. This usually is limited to the judge, the military members (like a jury), the accused, the lawyers, and the stenographer. You???re able to have a support person with you while you give evidence if you like.
- ??? In court you cannot be asked questions about your sexual history <u>at all</u> unless a special application is made to do so. The focus is on the actions of the accused, not the witnesses.
- ??? We have a team of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Advisors (SAPRA) who are available to provide you with confidential support and access to resources. Obviously you???re based in Australia but they are always available for phone calls, Zoom meetings etc. This is the case even if you do not want to be a witness ??? you have a right to this support anyway. However, they can also assist and support complainants navigating the trial (should we get to that point). It???s quite normal for them to act as a support person and sit with witnesses while they give their evidence etc. I can put you in touch with one of them at any time if you???d like.

Regarding the rest of the witnesses, it is the role of the clerk of the court to brief them on the process and ensure they understand their part in the proceedings.

I???II follow up with you once I???ve spoken to the Clerk and share any additional information with you. I???ve cc???d my colleague on this email as I will be deploying overseas next week. Please do not hesitate to contact her if you have any questions or require additional information.

Ng?? mihi,

#### MAJ Grace Blanks, (she/her)

Legal Advisor, HQ NZDF
Te Ope K??tua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force s.9(2)(a)

#### www.nzdf.mil.nz



THIS ADVICE MAY BE SUBJECT TO LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE AND IS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE AUTHOR

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 8:14 p.m.

To:

Select: Select: 230207: Email - Air Force Witnesses - NZDF Court Martial [SEC=OFFICIAL]

#### **OFFICIAL**

Hi Grace,

I???m the and I???m reaching today to seek some information due to some unforeseen staff absences.

I note that Air Force are providing a number of witnesses in the near future to an NZDF court martial. I was hoping you could share with me where this process is up to from your perspective- with engaging with our members or coordinating travel for them and possibly their support persons.

I???m also wondering if NZDF would fund an Air Force Uniformed Legal Officer to attend the proceedings with our members to provide them with an explanation of the process as it occurs, so that they fully understand their part in the proceedings.

I believe the Court Martial is scheduled for early March 23, could you please confirm the date?

I look forward to hearing from you.





IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

The information contained in this Internet Email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information, but not necessarily the official views or opinions of the New Zealand Defence Force. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it.

If you have received this message in error, please Email or telephone the sender immediately IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From:

s.9(2)(a

Sent:

Wednesday, 13 December 2023 8:12 a.m.

To:

Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT; 5.9(2)(a)

Subject:

RE: Update - Cameron Duncan

Good morning Natacha,

Thank you for the update. Appreciate you letting the solution women know as well.

Have a great day and wishing you happy holidays.

# Ngā mihi nui

s.9(2)(a)

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Advisor (SAPRA)

Northern Region (based at Whenuapai)

Defence Health Directorate, Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

M.s 9(2)(a)

SAPRA 24hr Helpline: 0800 693 324

Or Internationally call +64 4 527 5799

www.nzdf.mil.nz



A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

From: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT

Sent: Tuesday, 12 December 2023 8:49 a.m.

To:

Subject: Update - Cameron Duncan

Kia ora<sup>s.9(2)(a)</sup>

I'm sure you are already tracking but Cameron Duncan's appeal was unsuccessful, and he was dismissed from service on 6 Dec. I am just emailing to let you know that I have been in contact with each of the complainants to update them ©

Thanks again for all your support with this matter, and I hope you have a lovely holiday period!

Ngā mihi,

#### FLTLT Natacha Baugen (she/her)

Legal Advisor (Operations Law) 1, Defence Legal Services Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Phone: \$ 9(2)(a)

Internal: 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

From:

s.6(b)(i)

Sent:

Wednesday, 13 December 2023 11:39 a.m.

To:

Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT

Subject:

RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

#### OFFICIAL

Hi Natacha,

Thanks very much for closing this one out for me. I'll update out file with this final note.

I hope you have a lovely holiday period too and wishing you all the best for 2024!

Kind regards,

s. 6(b)(i)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT < 5.9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 13 December 2023 5:30 AM

To: s 6(b)(i)

Subject: RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

▲ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ▲.

Good morning Ma'am,

Cameron Duncan has <u>not</u> sought to appeal the decision of the Court Martial Appeal Court of New Zealand, and was dismissed from His Majesty's service as of 6 Dec 23. I have separately reached out to each of the complainants to let them know.

I hope you have a lovely holiday period and I look forward to us crossing paths again under better circumstances!

Ngā mihi,

# FLTLT Natacha Baugen (she/her)

Legal Advisor (Operations Law) 1, Defence Legal Services Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Phone: Internal: s.9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT

Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2023 9:22 p.m.

To: 8.6(b)(i)

Subject: RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Kia ora Ma'am,

I totally understand, it is a very busy time of year for everyone! I hope the rest of your year goes well and you have an enjoyable holiday period.

Cameron Duncan's name suppression has now lapsed, but he has until 6 Dec to request leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. From correspondence we have received from his lawyer, it appears unlikely that he will but I will keep you updated.

Ngā mihi,

#### FLTLT Natacha Baugen (she/her)

Legal Advisor (Operations Law) 1, Defence Legal Services Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Phone: s.9(2)(a)
Internal:

www.nzdf.mil.nz



s.6(b)(i

From:

Sent: Monday, 27 November 2023 2:36 p.m.

To: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT < s.9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

#### **OFFICIAL**

Hi Natacha,

I apologise it has taken me so long to respond to your email, it's proving to be a busy end to the year as everyone tries to wrap up matters before posting. I have no doubt you are probably in a similar position.

Thank you for passing on the JAG Direction. I have submitted the application form to the Registrar.

Many thanks again.

Kind regards,



IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT < \$5.9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 6:43 AM

To: 8 6(b)(i)

Subject: RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

▲ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ▲.

Kia ora Ma'am,

The Judge Advocate General of New Zealand has recently released a direction (attached) on records of proceedings of the Court Martial of New Zealand, which covers requests for access to Court documents. This states that requests should be made in writing (via the form attached to the direction) and directly to the Office of the JAG. It must specify:

- a. The record of proceedings the applicant seeks to access; and
- b. The reasons for the application.

If your team could kindly fill out the form and either post it to the address contained in the direction, or email it to **registrar.court.martial@nzdf.mil.nz**, your request can then be processed.

I hope that is useful! Please let me know if there are any issues with the attachment coming through, or if you have any other questions.

Ngā mihi,

### FLTLT Natacha Baugen (she/her)

Legal Advisor (Operations Law) 1, Defence Legal Services Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Phone: s.9(2)(a)
Internal: s.9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT

Sent: Wednesday, 8 November 2023 3:19 p.m.

To:

Subject: RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon Ma'am.

I have followed up with the Registrar of the Court Martial regarding the transcript as I do not hold the certified copies myself. I will be back in touch once I have more information.

Have a lovely week!

Ngā mihi,

# FLTLT Natacha Baugen (she/her)

Legal Advisor (Operations Law) 1, Defence Legal Services Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Phone: s 9(2)(a) Internal: s.9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

DEFENCE FORCE

From: s.6(b)(i)

Sent: Wednesday, 8 November 2023 10:15 a.m.

To: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT < 5.9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### **OFFICIAL**

Good morning Natacha,

Lovely to hear from you, I've been well thanks. I hope you have been keeping well too.

Thank you very much for the update on the matter and additional information on the next appeal process. I have passed your email to our Air Force HQ for their awareness.

Was there any update on a release of a full transcript of the matter for our records?

Kind regards,

s. 6(b)(i)

s. 6(b)(i)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: Baugen, Natacha, FLTLT < \$ 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 7 November 2023 7:27 AM

To: s.6(b)

Subject: [UNCLASSIFIED]: Update - FGOFF Duncan Appeal

▲ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ▲.

Kia ora Ma'am.

I hope you are well! I am just emailing to let you know that we have finally heard back from the Court Martial Appeal Court of New Zealand in relation to FGOFF Duncan. The judgment is dated 31 August 2023 – unfortunately the Court registry did not release it until now due to an error.

The key points are that his appeals were dismissed; his <u>conviction stands</u>, his <u>name will be published</u> and he will be <u>dismissed from His Majesty's Service</u>.

In terms of his appeal against the sentence imposed (which was dismissal and a severe reprimand), the Court quashed the 'severe reprimand' imposed. There is not much discussion on why, but it seems that they viewed it as unnecessary because dismissal "implies the most severe of reprimands". The Court was clear that it views dismissal as a significant punishment in and of itself.

As there was a delay in the release of the judgment his name suppression has been extended to  $\underline{20}$  November  $\underline{2023}$  (two weeks from the release of the judgment). The complainants have continued name suppression.

In terms of appealing the decision of the CMAC, he *could* appeal to the Court of Appeal of New Zealand. However, he does not have a 'right' of appeal – he must apply for leave to appeal (and this is not always granted). He has 28 days to apply for this, and his dismissal from the New Zealand Defence Force will take effect once this period has ended <u>or</u> any appeal is dealt with. Name suppression *could* be extended if he does apply for leave to appeal.

I have separately contacted the complainants to let them know the outcome and to remind them that support from the NZDF SAPRAs remains available should they need it.

Let me know if you have any questions @

Ngā mihi,

#### FLTLT Natacha Baugen (she/her)

Legal Advisor (Operations Law) 1, Defence Legal Services Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Phone: s.9(2)(a)
Internal: