



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

OIA-2024-5125

16 September 2024



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your letters of 12 June and 12 August 2024 to the Chief of Defence Force, Chief of Navy, Chief of Army, and Chief of Air Force, seeking copies of the relevant sovereign's authorisation of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), New Zealand Army, and Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) badges, the NZDF flag, and a copy of the kiwi logo.

A copy of the official badge painting of the RNZAF with the sovereign's approval is not held by the NZDF. The painting was forwarded to the RNZAF Museum for permanent safe-keeping. The postal address for the Museum is: Private Bag 4739, Christchurch 8140.

Copies of the sovereign's authorisations for the NZDF, RNZN, and New Zealand Army badges are enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the NZDF logo from the NZDF Vision Identity Standards.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, 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

**Enclosures:**

1. NZDF Badge
2. RNZN Badge
3. New Zealand Army Badge
4. NZDF logo

Approved

Elizabeth II



Badge of  
NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

Conrad Swan  
Garter.

College of Arms  
21 October 1993

Inspector of Regimental Colours



*Approved*  
*Elizabeth II*



*The Badge of the  
ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY.*

*14 November, 1969.  
College of Arms,  
London*

*Anthony R. Wagner.  
Garter King of Arms.*



Approved  
Elizabeth II



Badge of the  
New Zealand Army

College of Arms  
December 2001

V. H. Guyon Paal  
Garter King of Arms

### Development of the New Zealand Army Badge 1949-2002



The original New Zealand Army Badge was adopted in 1949 from the British Army. The badge was intended to give a common identity to a reorganised, post-war, New Zealand Army. The only condition laid down by the British for its use was the addition of the letters "NZ" in gold placed under the main crown. This amendment was to differentiate between the badge of the NZ Army and that of the British Army.



On the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 the badge was redesigned. The crown on the lion and the main crown were changed from the Tudor Crown of King George VI to the St Edward's Crown adopted by the new monarch. The final version of the badge was authorised in 1954.



In 1995 it was proposed to replace one of the swords with a taiaha. This proposal featured several times in the Army News during the year and sought Army wide feedback or suggestions. This version of the badge was not officially authorised or adopted.



On 24 May 1999 the Chief of General Staff issued a Special Order of the Day authorising a change to the Army Badge that incorporated the words "Ngati Tumatauenga" and replacing one crossed sword with a taiaha. This change reflected the culture that existed in the New Zealand Army while acknowledging the historic linkage. The standard coloured master of the badge was approved by the Chief of General Staff on 7 February 2000.



On 25 September 2000 an application was made to the New Zealand Herald of Arms for a Royal Licence to be granted for the new badge. Following approval of the design by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the badge was presented, in its heraldically correct configuration, to the Chief of General Staff by the Herald of Arms on 16 July 2002. The standard master, representing the original approved by the Queen, was approved by the Chief of General Staff in September 2002.

The original of the Badge is held in the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum in Waikouaiti with five high quality copies made to allow for wider display of the badge. The standard masters of the Army Badge are held by the Logistic Executive of Army General Staff and are used to ensure that reproductions of the badge do not vary from the original.

# Waitohu Matua Primary Logo

The kiwi has been worn by New Zealand military personnel since WWI on cap badges, medals and more recently as patches on the sleeve of uniforms while deployed. It is stamped on the side of ships, tanks and aircraft, identifying us as kiwis at home and abroad.

The coloured bar represents each of the three Services – Navy, Army and Air Force.

'Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa' is the official te reo Māori name for the New Zealand Defence Force.

**Te** means The.

**Ope** is a troop or body moving together.

**Kātua** is a palisade of a fortified position. In times of conflict Māori would occupy pā, or a fortified area. A pā generally had

three palisades; different iwi (tribes) had their names for each palisade. Kātua was one name for the main palisade; the main defensive fortification of the pā.

Therefore in this translation we are likened to the principal defensive component of Aotearoa, New Zealand.



## MINIMUM SIZE



## MINIMUM CLEARSPACE



## DO NOT

To maintain the integrity of the logo do not manipulate it in any way.

Do not flip, skew, rotate, recolour or recreate it.

Do not place the logo on inappropriate backgrounds.

Do not place the logo on products for sale by a commercial company without formal approval.



REVERSED LOGO

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SINGLE COLOUR LOGO (ALSO AVAILABLE IN BLACK)

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