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OIA-2023-4693

22 June 2023

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I refer to your email of 11 April 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following

For each year since 2016 the number of complaints of sexual harassment, violation and/or indecent assault that have been reported within the NZDF, including the outcome of those complaints.

Can this please be broken down in terms of gender of complainant and accused, and if possible by rank.

Within the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) maintains a database of disclosures of harmful sexual behaviour made to Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Advisors (SAPRA) and information from this database is provided in the table below. Note in 2019 the SART's responsibility was expanded to include harmful sexual behaviour, other than sexual assault, such as non criminal sexual harassment. This expansion in responsibilities has resulted in the increase in recorded instances of sexual harassment from 2019.

Year	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Violation	Indecent Assault
2016	1	7	8
2017	10	0	9
2018	0	11	12

Year	Sexual Harrassment	Sexual Violation	Indecent Assault
2019	23	12	14
2020	22	15	21
2021	23	13	16
2022	15	7	14
2023	14	1	9

Disclosures to the SART do not always result in a complaint being made, so the numbers above reflect disclosures, not complaints. Additionally the system for disclosing sexual offences is designed around facilitating privacy and support for people who have experienced harmful sexual behaviours, not statistical reporting. As a result, the SART system does not capture the outcome of any investigations resulting from complaints. This means that the SART cannot provide gender and rank details of the complainant.

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