



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

OIA-2025-5276

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March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 18 February 2025 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade requesting information about New Zealand Clergy who have served as chaplains in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Your request was transferred to the NZDF for response in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

I am looking for the following information from 1990-Current:

- *Principal Chaplain Defence 1990-Current full name and rank*
- *Principal Chaplain Navy 1990-Current full name and rank and length of appointment (Date of Commencement)*
- *Principal Chaplain Army 1990-Current full name and rank and length of appointment (Date of Commencement)*
- *Principal Chaplain Air Force 1990-Current full name and rank and length of appointment (Date of Commencement)*

The NZDF has no centralised record of people who have held the position of Principal Chaplain for the time requested. A substantial research and collation effort would be required to review the individual files of all NZDF chaplains since 1990 to extract the requested information. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA. Consideration was given to consulting with you to refine this part of your request; however, because of the way the information is held I do not believe any refinement is possible that would change this decision.

- *As well as a list of names of NZDF Chaplains from 1990-Current: Full name, Rank and Date of Commission to Date of leaving.*
- *If there are any archival photos of the Principal Chaplains Defence and branches I would be very grateful for the information.*

At enclosure one is a list of chaplains who have served in the NZDF since 1990, their commencement and departure dates, and the relevant Service. The listed rank is the rank at the time of departure from the NZDF. The rank of CHAPCL1 is the Principal Defence Chaplain role.

The rank of CHAPCL2 is for chaplains who held one of three other Principal Chaplain positions: Delivery, Capability or Operations. Names and service numbers are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of individuals.

The NZDF has not collated photographs of Principal Chaplains and this aspect of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the requested information does not exist.

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

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. NZDF chaplains since 1990