



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5353

12th May 2025



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 16 April 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information on New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) weapons and the assurances undertaken to ensure they are accounted for. A response to the various parts of your request is set out below.

What type of weapons do you keep, by generic category, and what are the categories,

The NZDF has a variety of weapons which are managed through codification. All weapons are assigned a NATO Stock Number which is unique to that weapon type/calibre and manufacturer. New Zealand Land Policy P106 Part 2 Chapter 34 – Weapons defines arms (not including ammunition), in the context of security, as:

- a. All small arms and personal weapons, including full bore and small bore rifles.
- b. Pistols, including flare and pyrotechnic.
- c. Grenade launchers.
- d. Mortars.
- e. Weapons removed from armoured firing vehicles up to and including 20 mm.
- f. Key weapon parts i.e. breech blocks, barrels, receiver groups, frames, carrier or slide assemblies, magazine housings and magazines.
- g. Weapons undergoing repair or maintenance.
- h. Portable anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, including M72 66 mm rocket launchers and expended M72 launchers awaiting destruction.
- i. Any foreign weapon (captured, presented or otherwise procured) capable of being fired or which could be made to fire by the replacement of any part or by fixing any defect.
- j. Any private weapon stored on behalf of the owner by NZDF, including shotguns and air rifles.
- k. Drill purpose, trophy, instructional or museum weapons, which could be made to fire by the replacement of any part or by fixing any defect.
- l. Swords and bayonets.

What assurance activities do you undertake to assure they are accounted for,

All live firing weapons are kept in an armoury which is locked and alarmed. Access to these armouries is limited to authorised personnel only. Assurance is completed by a combination

of weekly barrel checks, 'on occurrence' checks and compulsory monthly checks. Stock-takes are carried out periodically, by weapon type, and then by all weapons held in the armoury.

Are checks done by serial number or quantity, and how often are those checks done,

Monthly checks are completed by full serial confirmation in the NZDF inventory system. All individual live firing weapons are serialised, which include those that may have been procured/supplied without one (these are assigned a NZDF serial number). The exception to this are weapons with a one-off use, such as M72 rocket launchers and grenades. These, nonetheless, are still codified and subject to a stock-take.

How are those checks and processes recorded for independent audit purposes,

The weekly and 'on occurrence' checks are recorded on manual registers which are retained for 12 months. Monthly checks are recorded in the NZDF inventory system. These records are monitored by command and the Capability Monitoring and Assurance team. Stock-takes are also managed through the NZDF inventory system (NATO Stock Number, unit, serial number and quantity). These are physical stock-takes that require a person to confirm the serial number on the weapon.

Have you lost any weapons since 2019, and if so what was the outcome of those incidents,

Yes. A list of weapons reported as lost is provided below. If a weapon cannot be found after a follow-up check, it is written off and reported to Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force, the Military Police and the New Zealand Police.

- 1 x Bayonet, 06 Sep 19, item found
- 6 x Suppressors, 21 Feb 20, not found
- 1 x Bayonet, 06 Nov 20, not found
- 1 x Scope Rifle, 16 Dec 20, item found
- 1 x Bolt Rifle MARS-L, 18 May 21, item found
- 1 x Stock coil spring, 01 Nov 21, not found
- 1 x Training aid Pistol (Blue), 15 Dec 21, not found
- 5 x Bayonet, 02 Feb 22, not found
- 1 x Training aid Rifle (Blue), 01 Mar 22, item found
- 1 x Suppressor, 10 May 22, item found
- 1 x Training Bayonet, 19 Aug 22, item found
- 1 x Bayonet, 29 Aug 24, not found
- 1 x Bayonet, 07 Apr 25, under investigation
- Numerous Magazines (almost weekly) are lost. Most are found later.

Are weapons signed for when they are withdrawn.

Yes. All weapons are to be signed out of an armoury or training aid store in an Armoury Receipt and Issue book. When returned, the receipt is to be acknowledged by signature of the receiving store-person against the original entry.

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