



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

OIA-2025-5390

 June 2025


@rnz.co.nz

Dear 

I refer to your email of 9 May 2025 to the Office of the Minister of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

- *Any and all document/s regarding recruiting from the Pacific for New Zealand's Defence force from May 9 2024 to May 9 2025.*
- *All correspondence sent and received regarding any discussion on recruiting from the Pacific for New Zealand's Defence Force from May 9 2024 to May 9 2025. This includes any minutes from verbal communications.*
- *Please state whether the New Zealand Defence Force has recruited from Pacific Island nations.*
- *If so, please specify what nations these were, when the recruitment programmes and/or drives happened for each of those nations, what was involved, and how successful they were (i.e how many recruits from that particular drive in that nation joined the NZDF)*
- *Please also state whether New Zealand is currently considering recruiting from any Pacific nations.*
- *If so, please state what nations there are. Please also specify what is being planned for these recruitment programmes and/or drives in the respective nations. Please also state what the recruitment goals are for the NZDF (i.e how many recruits from each of the respective nations the NZDF wants)*

On 13 May 2025 your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the OIA. Defence Recruiting has not and is not considering deliberate recruiting action from across the Pacific. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

For your information, applicants are assessed against a number of different eligibility criteria¹. A key entry requirement for enlistment into the NZDF is the ability to obtain and retain a security clearance. This requires applicants to be a NZ citizen, permanent resident, or hold a NZ Residence class visa with indefinite stay. Current visa settings also mean that many candidates from non-realm country Pacific nations are unable to obtain an appropriate visa within a feasible timeframe required for NZDF employment.

¹ <https://www.defencecareers.mil.nz/how-do-i-join/am-i-eligible#e3943>

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