



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

OIA-2025-5434

7/12

July 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 10 June 2025 requesting information about *the WAI 2500 hearings*. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

- *Specifically I am interested in who is representing or has represented the Defence force and Navy at the hearings which I understand began last year: do they identify as Māori or belonging to an iwi, and what role or level of role do they have in their respective entities? I request only demographic information and do not want personal information about the Crown representatives.*
- *Please confirm the decision process to require them to stand on behalf of the Crown at those hearings, what wellbeing support is available to them and what consideration, if any, was given to placing a Māori person in those roles? This last question applies whether the representative identified as Māori or not.*

For clarity, in terms of “representing” the Crown in the Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry, this is being undertaken by counsel from the Crown Law Office.

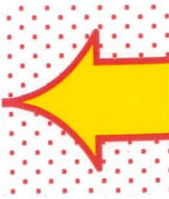
With respect to current members of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) who have submitted evidence to the Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry, the NZDF has not recorded ethnicity details for these individuals in this context. Ethnicity information may be provided by a member of the NZDF on a voluntary basis for recording in their personal file.

Reports, documents and briefs of evidence submitted by current members of the NZDF are publicly available on the Waitangi Tribunal website¹. The Briefs of Evidence include the Scope of Evidence being provided. This may assist in understanding why those particular current members of the NZDF provided evidence to the Inquiry. These have been provided by many members of the NZDF, for example: Brigadier Andrew Shaw, Assistant Chief of Strategic Commitments and Engagements; Major General Robert Krushka, Commander Joint Forces New Zealand; Brigadier Charmaine Tate, NZDF Surgeon General and Director Defence Health Services; and, Rear Admiral Garin Golding, Chief of Navy.

Information on wellbeing support that the NZDF provides to all members of the NZDF is publicly available on the Defence Health Hub website².

¹ <https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/en/inquiries/kaupapa-inquiries/military-veterans>

² <https://health.nzdf.mil.nz/get-help-now/nzdf4u-wellbeing-support>



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