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OIA-2025-5462

6<sup>th</sup> August 2025

[REDACTED]@skynews.com.au

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 7 July 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA),

*I'm looking for documents that show statistics on sexual harassment complaints in the New Zealand Defence Force. Ideally, looking for data that breaks down complaints by gender. I'm looking for documents produced or data covering the past 5 years, between 2020 and 2025.*

Within the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) the avenues available to an individual to disclose Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) prioritise providing privacy and support to that individual over statistical reporting. The primary means available to an individual making a disclosure are through a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Advisor (SAPRA), they also include but are not limited to reporting to command, civilian management, chaplains, social workers, and Human Resource Advisors. Because of the range of ways that HSB can be disclosed, data is not comprehensively captured in a centralised manner. Furthermore, someone making a disclosure may not want associated information disclosed. Because of the decentralised nature of recorded HSB data, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of information by gender.

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) maintains a record of disclosures of HSB made to SAPRAs. The numbers of disclosures of sexual harassment made in the years relevant to your request are contained in the table below. The definition of sexual harassment is congruent with that in the Human Rights Act 1993.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD
Disclosures	24	14	21	40	19	3

A disclosed instance of HSB does not necessarily progress to a complaint. The numbers of disclosures recorded by the SART is also subject to change over time as it is a live database, and the numbers may be amended as individuals amend their disclosures.

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](http://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