



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

OIA-2025-5481

25th July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 22 July 2025 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, *information on the flags NZDF personnel, specifically RNZN personnel, are permitted to display on their uniforms. I have observed numerous flags, including political ones, displayed on uniform on social media and am curious about the regulations.*

Recently, the official talismansabre Instagram account posted photographs of a RNZN boat party from HMNZS TE KAHA displaying the Tino Rangatiratanga flag on their helmets in place of the New Zealand flag. This flag could be mistaken for a political symbol and I would like to know which other flags are permitted.

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) has a list of approved patches held within NZBR 3, the RNZN Clothing Manual. Currently only the New Zealand Flag and the New Zealand White Ensign are approved for wear. In the specific circumstance you refer to, the individual did not have permission to add this patch to their uniform, and they will be reminded of the regulations. Thank you for raising the issue with us.

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