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

OIA-2025-5540

2nd October 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 15 September 2025 requesting information about *individuals applying, being accepted and completing basic training for roles in the Army, Navy, Air Force over the last decade*. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). You have specifically requested the following:

- ...the number of people who apply to join the Army for each month of each financial year (1 April to 31 March) from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people accepted to train as an Army recruit for each month of each financial year (1 April to 31 March) from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people who complete Army training during each financial year from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people who apply to join the Navy for each month of each financial year (1 April to 31 March) from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people accepted to train as a Navy recruit for each month of each financial year (1 April to 31 March) from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people who complete Navy training during each financial year from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people who apply to join the Air Force for each month of each financial year (1 April to 31 March) from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people accepted to train as Air Force recruit for each month of each financial year (1 April to 31 March) from 1995 to present.
- ...the number of people who complete Air Force basic training during each financial year from 1995 to present.

While you stated that you were requesting information *over the last decade*, you have specifically requested information over thirty years. Your request is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as this information is stored over a number of different systems. A substantial collation and research effort would be required to retrieve and prepare the requested information. Furthermore, the New Zealand Defence Force records recruitment data for each Service by calendar year, not by financial year as per your request.

For your information, the following table provides recruitment data from 2015 to 2025 (as at April 2025). The term attested indicates that the recruit has accepted the offer of service, has presented for training and has sworn allegiance to the Crown.

		Army	Navy	Air Force
2015	Target	426	127	229
	Attested	363	111	165
2016	Target	420	202	202
	Attested	392	162	160
2017	Target	633	263	230
	Attested	451	205	195
2018	Target	565	292	202
	Attested	513	216	159
2019	Target	571	296	157
	Attested	470	246	144
2020	Target	611	268	136
	Attested	458	230	134
2021	Target	833	207	136
	Attested	646	164	122
2022	Target	698	348	201
	Attested	460	197	156
2023	Target	756	333	253
	Attested	474	158	152
2024	Target	651	347	230
	Attested	433	200	185
2025 As at Apr	Target	245	41	52
	Attested	210	41	52

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