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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5563

22nd October 2025

Stanley Bannerman
fyi-request-32537-33923e66@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Stanley Bannerman

I refer to your email of 9 October 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

- *A list of the current Commodore-in-Chief, Colonel-in-Chief, and Air Commodore-in-Chief positions held within the Royal New Zealand Navy, New Zealand Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force, respectively.*
- *The name of the individual currently holding each appointment, and the date (or approximate date) their tenure began.*
- *Whether any requests, proposals, or correspondence have been made since the accession of King Charles III to update, renew, or confirm these honorary appointments, and the current status of any such requests.*

The below table provides the current list of Colonels-in-Chief for the New Zealand Army, with the name of the titleholder and year the tenure commenced.

Army Corps	Colonel-in-Chief	Commencement
Royal New Zealand Signals Corps	Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, KG KT GCVO QSO CD	1977
Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps	His Royal Highness, Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO, GCStJ, SSI, FRIBA	2008
Royal New Zealand Army Education Corps	Her Royal Highness, Birgitte, Duchess of Gloucester, GCVO, DStJ, CD	1977
Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps	Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, KG KT GCVO QSO CD	1977

For the New Zealand Army, matters relating to honorary appointments have been under consideration since the ascension of His Majesty King Charles III. This is at a very early stage and no final decisions have been made.

His Majesty King Charles III is Field Marshal of the New Zealand Army, Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), and Marshal of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF). These are lifetime appointments and were made by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the then Prince of Wales in November 2015. His Majesty continues to hold the titles.

The RNZN does not use the term *Commodore-in-Chief* and the RNZAF does not use the term *Air Commodore-in-Chief*. The national equivalent ceremonial role in the RNZN is Commander-in-Chief, held by the Governor-General Her Excellency The Right Honourable

Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO. The RNZAF has four honorary commissions, two at the rank of Group Captain and two at the rank of and Wing Commander.

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.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF