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OIA-2025-5563.1

17th
November 2025

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

Dear Stanley Bannerman

I refer to your email of 24 October 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), further information following your earlier request (OIA-2025-5563).

I would like to clarify two matters arising from your response:

1. *Captain-General, Royal New Zealand Artillery I note that His Majesty The King is not included in your list as Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery. Could you please confirm whether this omission was inadvertent?*

If not, could you clarify how this aligns with the communication between Colonel Ben Bagley and the Master Gunner of St James's Park, as referenced here:

<https://www.rnzaa.org.nz/new-rnza-captain-general/>

The advice provided to Colonel Bagley from the Master Gunner was incorrect as the appointment related only to the Royal Artillery. New Zealand appointments are made by The King on the advice of the New Zealand Government and that is in process.

2. *Commodore-in-Chief and Air Commodore-in-Chief Positions Your response stated:*

"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."

I wish to clarify the meaning of this statement, as it is currently ambiguous. Do you mean to indicate that:

- a. *The RNZN and RNZAF currently have no individuals appointed to the positions of Commodore-in-Chief and Air Commodore-in-Chief; or*
- b. *These positions are no longer in use and will not be used in future?*

While I can find no evidence of any Commodore-in-Chief appointments within the NZDF (current or historical), I note that the position of Air Commodore-in-Chief, Royal New Zealand Air Force was held by His Majesty The King (then The Prince of Wales) until 2015 (see New Zealand Gazette, 6 August 2015, Issue 87, Notice 2015-vr4665: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2015-vr4665>).

Furthermore, the late Queen Elizabeth II was listed as Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Territorial Air Force of New Zealand as recently as September 2022 (Army News, Issue

536, p.

2:https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/ArmyNews_Issue536.pdf). This NZDF document explicitly lists the position as a “current military appointment” at the time of Her late Majesty’s passing.

Given that the position of Air Commodore-in-Chief appears to have remained current as recently as 2015 and 2022, could you please advise:

When the position of Air Commodore-in-Chief was formally abolished (if applicable); and What process was undertaken to discontinue or replace them.

The Prince of Wales relinquished his appointment as Air Commodore-in-Chief, Royal New Zealand Air Force, with effect from 2 August 2015. The honorary 'rank title' Air-Commodore-in-Chief remains for the Royal New Zealand Air Force but no-one is currently appointed at this level. Squadrons from the Territorial Air Force of New Zealand were disbanded in 1957. As such, there is no current Air-Commodore-in-Chief of the Territorial Air Force of New Zealand.

In addition, there are no Commodore-in-Chief appointments in the New Zealand Defence Force and there are no plans to recommend these appointments.

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