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New Zealand

OIA-2026-5663

27th February 2026

Spencer Jones

fyi-request-33697-41db26ca@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Spencer Jones

I refer to your email of 11 February 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *governance-level information held by Veterans' Affairs New Zealand*. The parts of your request are addressed below:

This request follows confirmation from Charities Services that there is no structured beneficiary classification identifying "veteran-focused" charities within the Charities Register.

This request seeks only existing documents or confirmation of non-existence. No new collation, data creation, or manual compilation is required.

1. *Curated or Recognised Veteran-Support Organisations*

Please provide:

1.1 *Any list, register, referral directory, internal dataset, or maintained record held by Veterans' Affairs NZ that identifies charities or non-government organisations that support military veterans and/or their families.*

1.2 *Any criteria, definitions, or inclusion standards used to determine whether an organisation is recognised as supporting veterans.*

If no curated list, directory, or dataset exists, please confirm that explicitly.

I refer to the response of 10 February 2026, that states Veterans' Affairs (VA) does not have a mandate to operate outside the parameters established by legislation and specific Government direction. VA does not maintain a formal list or directory of charities or non-government organisations that support military veterans and/or their families. As such, your request is refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the information does not exist.

2. *Mapping and Gap Analysis (Post-2014)*

Please provide any existing:

- * Reports*
- * Briefings*
- * Mapping exercises*
- * Gap analyses*
- * Sector capability reviews*

produced since 1 July 2014 (commencement of the Veterans' Support Act 2014) that assess:

- * The availability of non-statutory veteran support organisations in New Zealand;*
- * Geographic coverage gaps;*
- * Service-type gaps (e.g., housing, rehabilitation, mental health, employment transition);*
- * Overlap or duplication with statutory services.*

If no such assessments exist, please confirm that explicitly.

This part of your request concerns the kind of work that may be undertaken as a part of a general review of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 and its operation. While such a review has been indicated for the future following the Paterson Report, the decision to do so is one for the Government of the day. No such direction has been given at this time, and therefore this part of your request is refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

3. Cross-Agency Coordination

Please provide any existing documents describing coordination between Veterans' Affairs NZ and any of the following in identifying, mapping, or supporting veteran-focused charities:

- * Charities Services (DIA)*
- * Ministry of Social Development*
- * Health New Zealand*
- * Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association (RSA)*
- * Or other public agencies*

If coordination occurs informally only and no formal documentation exists, please confirm that explicitly.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association and VA is available on VA's website:

<https://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz/news-events/articles/veterans-affairs-signs-memorandum-of-understanding-with-the-rnzrsa/>.

As noted previously, VA's mandate does not extend to acting as a coordinating body for non-statutory charitable or community assistance beyond the parameters established by legislation or specific Government direction. As far as this part of your request concerns other agencies/organisations, it is refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

4. Beneficiary Classification Advocacy

Please confirm whether Veterans' Affairs NZ has ever:

- * Recommended the creation of a structured "veteran" beneficiary classification within the Charities Register; or*
- * Considered such a proposal.*

If documentation exists (including internal advice, briefing notes, or correspondence), please provide copies.

If no such consideration has occurred, please confirm that explicitly.

This request is limited to existing governance-level documentation or confirmation of non-existence.

Any such consideration is beyond VA's mandate and would require direction by Government or the Chief of Defence Force. As no such direction has been given, this part of your request is also refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

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