



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

OIA-2026-5689

 March 2026

Dear 

I refer to your email of 26 February 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. Has the New Zealand Defence Force received any applications from serving New Zealand military personnel to take leave from the NZDF to fight with the Israeli Defence Force in the past two and half years?*
- 2. If so how many applications have been made? and*
- 3. How many of the applications have been approved? and*
- 4. How many of these military personnel have been allowed to re-enlist with the NZDF*

No New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel have applied for leave in order to undertake combat with the Israeli Defence Force.

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