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OIA-2026-5789

14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Hamish Kirk

[fyi-request-34571-93dbf4dd@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34571-93dbf4dd@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Hamish Kirk

I refer to your email of 30 April 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the below:

1. *In the period of November 2013 to April 2026, how many RNZChD chaplains have been released from service who have attained the rank of CHAP3 or higher?*

Twelve.

2. *How many prints have been presented to released RNZChD chaplains according to the RNZChD Corps Fund Secretary's records?*

Two.

3. *Is there any information that you can provide that explains the current praxis of not every released RNZChD chaplain being offered the donators gift of a Chapel print?*

This is not the current nor former praxis. The RNZChD does not hold any policy, directive, or standing order that requires every released chaplain to be presented with a chapel print upon release. Historically, the gifting of chapel prints has arisen from donor intent and informal Corps practice, rather than from any New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) or RNZChD regulatory instrument. As such, the practice has depended on factors including the conditions attached to the original donation, eligibility criteria communicated by the donor at the time of the gift, availability of prints, and administrative coordination at the time of a chaplain's release.

4. *Is there any official information that you can provide that would demonstrate that PCA-Regimental Colonel or the RNZChD Corps Fund Secretary have any discretion as to which CHAP3 RNZChD Chaplains, upon release, are presented with the donators gift- or not?*

The NZDF does not hold any relevant information that demonstrates that the PCA-Regimental Colonel or the RNZChD Corps Fund Secretary has discretion to decide which CHAP3 RNZChD chaplains, upon release, are presented with a Chapel print. Where Chapel prints have been presented historically, this has occurred as an administrative function,

giving effect to donor conditions attached to the original gift, eligibility criteria established by the donor or agreed by the Corps at the time of donation, and the availability of the gifted items.

5. *Is there any official information that you can provide that would demonstrate that the donator has been informed and consented to a variance of the presentation criteria as agreed to between him and the RNZChD in the Deed of Gift?*

As no variation to the Deed of Gift has occurred, this part of your request is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the OIA.

6. *There have been reports in recent years critical of NZDF Chaplaincy leadership's praxis of deciding to not follow the rules of the NZDF. Considering this, external to the RNZChD, where is the appropriate place in the NZDF for affected released RNZChD chaplains or the donator to raise further concerns?*

Concerns relating to RNZChD practice, governance, or administration may be raised in writing to Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force. The RNZChD remains committed to transparency, good faith engagement, and adherence to NZDF governance processes. Allegations or concerns are best addressed through formal channels rather than informal correspondence, to ensure procedural fairness for all parties.

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](http://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