



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

OIA-2026-5799

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 5 May 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information surrounding the data the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) collects from medical events. I address each of your questions below.

1. *Does NZDF collect data on the diseases and medical events for service members to assist with longitudinal studies and analysis? For example the US military operates The Defense Medical Epidemiology Database (DMED). Does the NZDF have a similar type of centralized medical database?*

No.

2. *Please provide the annual number of recorded medical events within NZDF for the years 2017 to 2025 for the following medical conditions (or similar medical categories):*
  - *Strokes and clots*
  - *Cardiac conditions*
  - *Neurological conditions*
  - *Autoimmune conditions*
  - *Muscular skeletal and connective tissue conditions*
  - *Diseases of the eye*
  - *Kidney diseases*

The NZDF Medical Information System does not record the information in the way that it has been asked. A manual search of all medical records across the eight-year period of your request would be required to identify and collate the requested information. Production of this information would impair efficient administration under section 16(2)(a) of the OIA.

3. *Does NZDF collect data on the annual medical discharge rates and the primary medical conditions allocated for the medically discharged?*

Yes, data for annual medical discharge rates are recorded; however, the system does not record the primary medical condition for each discharge.

4. Provide data on the annual medical discharge rates for NZDF for the years 2017-2025

The following table provides the requested information by calendar year.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total</b>	20	25	42	38	40	25	16	21	20

5. Please advise whether the medical officers still allocate general release categories (such as DG1 and DG2) at the time of each discharge. If so, please explain the general release categories and provide the annual rate for each general release category for the years 2017 to 2025.

No.

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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF