



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

OIA-2026-5827

23rd June 2026

[redacted]
[redacted]@taxpayers.org.nz

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 2 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) *the total number of Chaplains and any justification for this number.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Chaplaincy has provision for 27 Regular Force Chaplains, and is a tri-service resource which enables Chaplains to perform their role in any location. Currently, 21 of these positions are filled. With over 12,000 members of the NZDF (including civilian staff), this represents an approximate ratio of one Chaplain for every 571 members.

Chaplains are an important part of the support system enabling NZDF outputs through the strategic health effects of prepare, protect, improve, restore, and inform. NZDF Chaplaincy services include, but are not limited to: operational services; healthcare provision; military ceremonial; spiritual services; educational briefings; and, command feedback. The provision of 27 Regular Force Chaplains is a reasonable number to deliver those services across the NZDF.

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