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New Zealand Defence Force  
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Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5834

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 28 May 2026 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about COVID-19 vaccinations. Your request for the following was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for response:

- *What advice and evidence has the Ministry and Minister relied upon to continue the requirement for military personnel to continue to be vaccinated against Covid?*
- *Has the Ministry received any advice from international Military organisations who have removed such requirements for personnel ?*

The NZDF takes into account current New Zealand Ministry of Health advice and published research on the relative benefits and risks of the current COVID-19 vaccine. This advice is balanced across NZDF's requirement to deliver global and domestic operational outputs in a range of environments and the communal nature of Service living accommodation and activity within Base and Camp environs.

The NZDF has not received advice from foreign militaries concerning vaccinations against COVID-19. Policies of other militaries may be considered where this affects NZDF deployment and employment within coalition environments and particular countries. Risks to NZDF staff and operations must be mitigated and managed by the NZDF in the first instance.

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