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OIA-2026-5842

3rd

July 2026

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 10 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information relating to the years 2020-2026:

- *How many uniformed personnel have had funding approved through NZDF to undergo postgraduate studies? Please break it down by year, rank, service, broad degree type (eg engineering, psychology, nursing) and institution (eg University of Auckland, Oxford University, Harvard).*
- *The amount of funding applied to each application (eg the application in 2020 for an Air Force wing commander to study a masters in logistics at Massey University received \$10,000 in funding).*
- *Any ROSO applied for each instance of study.*
- *Whether the serviceperson was granted any study leave in order to assist with or complete their studies.*
- *Whether any individuals were posted overseas during the period of their studies and the costing of that to NZDF (including in particular allowances, accommodation and travel) broken down by individual costs.*
- *Whether the serviceperson was required to attend courses in person overseas and, if so, the costing of that to NZDF (including in particular allowances, accommodation and travel) broken down by individual costs.*
- *Whether the serviceperson successfully completed their studies or not, and the date on which they successfully completed their studies.*
- *If held by NZDF, any record of the serviceperson's grades.*

The below tables provide information on postgraduate study for New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel administered through the NZDF's Voluntary Education Study Assistance programme (VESA) between Financial Year (FY) 2020/21 and FY 2025/26. Over this period, 346 NZDF personnel were supported (Table 1), with total funding of \$417,000 excluding GST (Table 2).

The majority of study has been undertaken at Masters and Postgraduate Diploma level. Massey University has been the primary provider, accounting for approximately 65% of all enrolments and funding. Pass/fail rates are provided in Table 3.

The following information is not held or not reportable within VESA systems: Return of Service Obligations (ROSO), study leave provisions, overseas postings and associated costs, full qualification completion dates, or Detailed academic grades.

**Table 1: Participation by Service**

Financial Year	Air Force	Army	Navy
FY 2020/21	66	77	30
FY 2021/22	20	25	15
FY 2022/23	10	21	10
FY 2023/24	18	16	6
FY 2024/25	8	7	2
FY 2025/26	8	5	2

**Table 2: Funding by Service**

Financial Year	Air Force	Army	Navy
FY 2020/21	\$71,095.11	\$102,234.32	\$31,718.44
FY 2021/22	\$23,793.29	\$29,923.03	\$20,075.17
FY 2022/23	\$8,559.63	\$31,104.76	\$10,140.20
FY 2023/24	\$25,995.95	\$17,516.66	\$7,332.69
FY 2024/25	\$9,175.99	\$8,363.43	\$2,023.97
FY 2025/26	\$10,058.51	\$5,545.92	\$2,782.61

**Table 3: Pass Fail**

Financial Year	Did not complete	Failed	In Progress	Passed	Released	Withdrew
FY 2020/21	1	2	0	160	4	6
FY 2021/22	0	2	0	55	1	2
FY 2022/23	0	1	0	40	0	0
FY 2023/24	2	0	0	38	0	0
FY 2024/25	0	0	0	17	0	0
FY 2025/26	0	0	10	5	0	0

The specific information you are seeking about study undertaken by individual members of each Service is not centrally recorded by the NZDF. Some decisions would have been made at Command level and information recorded on individual personnel files. This information cannot be made available to you because the substantial work involved to generate it would impair the efficient administration of the NZDF. This is in accordance with section 16(2)(a) of the OIA.

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