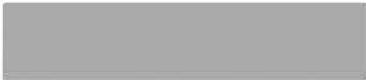




Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5857

18th August 2026



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 23 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information related to *the Military Police investigation at Burnham Military Camp reported publicly on or around 3 October 2025, understood to involve personnel of the 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR) and to concern alleged drug offences, in which cellphones were reportedly seized and at least 10 personnel questioned.* The various parts of your request are addressed below.

1. *The current status of the investigation (ongoing, concluded, or referred), and the date it was opened and (if applicable) closed.*

The Military Police investigation commenced on 27 June 2025 and was completed on 11 February 2026.

2. *The total number of NZDF personnel investigated in connection with this matter.*
3. *The number of personnel against whom charges were laid, broken down by (a) charges under the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971, and (b) matters referred to the New Zealand Police and/or charged in a civilian court.*

17 personnel were identified and investigated in connection with this matter. Nine of those personnel were charged under the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971 (AFDA), and one person was referred to the New Zealand Police under section 102 of the AFDA.

4. *The nature of the charges (relevant offence provisions or a general description of each charge type) and the number of personnel facing each.*
5. *The outcomes of all charges, including numbers of convictions, withdrawals/dismissals, acquittals, and matters dealt with summarily versus by the Court Martial of New Zealand.*
6. *For matters resulting in a finding of guilt, the punishments or sentences imposed, in aggregate or by category.*

Charges were laid against personnel under the following AFDA sections: 39(a); 39(b); 73(1)(a); 74(1); and 76(1) and (4). As section 74 of the AFDA incorporates New Zealand civil law, charges laid under that section also included reference to other offence provisions, including: sections 6(1)(d), (1)(e) and (2)(c); sections 7(1)(a), (1)(b) and (2)(b); section 12(1); sections 13(1)(a) and (3) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975; and/or section 43(1) of the Medicines Act 1981.

There was a total of 60 charges in relation to nine personnel. 28 of those charges, relating to eight personnel, were heard summarily. The remaining 32 charges have been referred for trial via Court Martial (which is yet to take place). Of the 28 charges heard summarily, 20 resulted in guilty findings and 8 resulted in not guilty findings.

The following punishments were imposed:

- 12 days' detention
- 18 days' detention
- 18 days' detention
- 21 days' detention and a \$500 fine
- Reduction in rank and a \$2,682.96 fine
- Reduction in rank and a \$1,511.51 fine
- A reprimand, 21 days' stoppage of leave and 14 days' extra duty

7. The number of personnel discharged, released or otherwise separated from service as a result of this matter, by category of discharge.

Where a member of the armed forces is involved in conduct that may make their continued retention in service untenable, their retention is subject to review, which will consider the member's conduct across the duration of their entire service. If a decision to discharge is made, it is not recorded against one single event. Providing the requested information would impair efficient administration, under section 16(2)(a) of the OIA, as a manual review of personal files would be required.

8. Whether any matters were referred to the New Zealand Police, and if so, the date(s) of referral and (to the extent NZDF holds this) the outcome.

One person was referred to New Zealand Police in December 2025 under section 102 of the AFDA. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does not hold any information regarding the outcome.

9. Copies of any internal NZDF reports, reviews, or briefings to the Chief of Army or Chief of Defence Force arising from or summarising this matter, including any lessons-learned or command response. Personal information may be redacted.

No briefings, reports, or reviews were made to the Chief of the Defence Force or the Chief of Army regarding this matter.

10. Copies of any media statements, lines, or talking points prepared by NZDF in relation to this matter.

11. Details of any change to NZDF policy, drug-testing regime, or command direction introduced in response to this matter.

Two media enquiries in October 2025 were made in relation to this matter. In both cases, as the investigation was ongoing, the NZDF reply was that that no further comments were possible at the time.

While no changes to policy were made as a result of this matter, DFO 17 (Substance Harm Minimisation) has recently been introduced, replacing a previous Defence Force Instruction.

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