



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

OIA-2026-5895

(11th August 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 3 July 2026 to the Public Service Commission seeking *the relevant provisions of the Public Service Act 2020, the Policing Act 2008, the Defence Act 1990 and any applicable Cabinet Manual paragraphs that describe the status of NZ Police and NZDF in relation to the public service principles.*

Your request was transferred in part to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Section 12 of the Public Service Act 2020 does not apply to the NZDF because the NZDF is not part of the Public Service defined under that Act. No provision of that Act expressly states a link between the public service principles and the Defence Act 1990.

No provision of the Defence Act 1990 expressly describes the status of the NZDF in relation to the public service principles. The Defence Act preserves the prerogative authority for the Crown to raise and maintain armed forces in New Zealand and empowers the Chief of Defence Force to issue orders and instructions to the NZDF as he determines necessary for the performances of his functions, duties, or powers provided for in the Defence Act. The public service principles, where appropriate within a military context, are reflected in these orders and instructions.

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