



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

OIA-2026-5966

2nd October 2026

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 4 September 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

To complement that data, please now provide, as at 30 June 2026:

a. *The total number of established "Defence-tied posts", i.e. your description of posts that can be filled by personnel from any of the Services, that are designated to be filled by:*

- 1) *Regular Force Military personnel*
 - 2) *Reserve Force Military personnel*
 - 3) *Military or Civilian personnel (if such or similar distinction exists)*
- disaggregated by rank, i.e. Senior Rate/NCO; Junior Officer (Lt/Capt/Flt Lt and below); Lt Cdr/Major/Sqn Ldr; Cdr/Lt Col/Wg Cdr; Capt/Col/Gp Capt; Cdre/Brig/Air Cdre; Flag Officer (R.Adm/Maj.Gen/AVM and above).*

b. *The actual numbers of personnel actually employed in those posts, disaggregated by Service, and sub-disaggregated by the same categories and rank divisions as above*
Please then confirm that that data, when combined with the data already supplied, will give a full and accurate summary of every established post in the NZDF, and an enumeration of every individual Regular and Reserve Force person employed in the NZDF on 30 June 2026.

The enclosed information and figures supersede the data provided to you in my letter dated 4 September 2026 (OIA-2026-5966). This data provides a full and accurate summary of every established post in the NZDF, and the enumeration of every individual Regular and Reserve Force person employed in the NZDF as at 30 June 2026.

At enclosure one, Table 1 includes Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), New Zealand Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Reserve and Regular Force numbers, as well as the number of Defence-tied posts (highlighted in yellow). It also includes RNZN, New Zealand Army, and RNZAF posts that are required as a 'holding' capacity (referred to as RRC and highlighted in green). These are typically used as holding positions, for example before a member's release, or for attachments / tour of duty positions). This generates a NZDF total position establishment of 18,124. Table 2 details the total headcount against Table 1.

At enclosure 2, Tables 3 and 4 provides the requested breakdown of establishment and actual Defence-tied posts respectively.

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

Enclosures:

1. Establishment and actual data as at 30 June 2026
2. Tables showing defence-tied positions as at 30 June 2026

Table 1 and table 2 showing military numbers as at 30 June 2026

Table 1.

Establishment at 30 June 2026	
RNZN Reserve	102
RNZN Regular Force	2791
RRC (Military or Civilian)	251
RNZN TOTAL	3144
NZ Army Reserve	2512
NZ Army Regular Force	5865
RRC (Military or Civilian)	318
NZ Army TOTAL	8695
RNZAF Reserve	245
RNZAF Regular Force	3431
RRC (Military or Civilian)	403
RNZAF TOTAL	4079
Reserve - Defence-tied	115
Regular Force - Defence-tied	1589
RRC (Military or Civilian)	502
Defence-tied TOTAL	2206
TOTAL Positions 30 June 2026	18,124

Table 2.

Headcount at 30 June 2026	
	Headcount
RNZN Ready Reserve	113
RNZN Standby Reserve	583
RNZN Regular Force	2230
RNZN TOTAL	2926
NZ Army Ready Reserve	1395
NZ Army Standby Reserve	645
NZ Army Regular Force	4459
NZ Army TOTAL	6499
RNZAF Ready Reserve	138
RNZAF Standby Reserve	305
RNZAF Regular Force	2493
RNZAF TOTAL	2936
TOTAL Headcount 30 June 2026	12,361

Table 3. Defence-tied positions at 30 June 2026, disaggregated by arm and rank equivalent.

Rank Equivalent	Regular Force - Defence-tied	Reserve - Defence-tied	RRC (Military or Civilian)	TOTAL Defence-tied positions
PTE (E)	134		3	137
LCPL (E)	33		3	36
CPL (E)	114	22		136
SGT (E)	68	3	1	72
SSGT (E)	99	2	1	102
WO2 (E)	7	8		15
WO1 (E)	71	2		73
2LT (E)	2			2
LT (E)	17	2	2	21
CAPT (E)	156	36	1	193
MAJ (E)	186	28	2	216
LTCOL (E)	144	6	4	154
COL (E)	62	2	1	65
BRIG (E)	15			15
MAJGEN (E)	4		1	5
LTGEN (E)	1			1
ANYRANK (E)	476	4	483	963
TOTAL Defence-tied positions	1589	115	502	2206

Table 4. Regular Force and Reserve Force headcount in Defence-tied positions at 30 June 2026, disaggregated by service, arm, and rank equivalent.

Rank Equivalent	RNZN			NZ Army			RNZAF			TOTAL headcount in Defence-tied positions
	Ready Reserve	Standby Reserve	Regular Force	Ready Reserve	Standby Reserve	Regular Force	Ready Reserve	Standby Reserve	Regular Force	
PTE (E)			29			55			24	108
LCPL (E)			7			16			2	25
CPL (E)			17	8	2	29		1	13	70
SGT (E)			11		1	24		1	9	46
SSGT (E)			16	4		34			16	70
WO2 (E)					1	19				20
WO1 (E)			16			26	1	1	13	57
2LT (E)			1			1			3	5
LT (E)			5	1		9			4	19
CAPT (E)		1	13	8	2	42			19	85
MAJ (E)	1	2	33	3		48	1		35	123
LTCOL (E)			21	1		47	2		26	97
COL (E)			9	1		27			12	49
BRIG (E)			5			10			2	17
MAJGEN (E)			1			2			1	4
LTGEN (E)									1	1
TOTAL headcount	1	3	184	26	6	389	4	3	180	796