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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

21 October 2025

Spencer Jones
fyi-request-32578-a553476f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Spencer

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 15 October 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request the following information regarding the Ministry's policy advice and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) data on veteran eligibility under the Veterans' Support Act 2014, focusing on issues from the Paterson Report (2018), including Recommendation 63 on broadening the "veteran" definition:

1. *Eligibility and Transition Statistics (2020–2025):*

- *Annual NZDF data on serving personnel transitioning to veteran status, including numbers assessed for qualifying operational service and rates of exclusion due to non-operational roles.*
- *Breakdown of health/mental health referrals from NZDF to VANZ or ACC, with approval/denial rates for service-related conditions (e.g., PTSD, chronic injuries).*

2. *Paterson Report Implementation (NZDF/MoD Input):*

- *Copies of MoD policy advice or briefing papers (2023–2025) on implementing Recommendation 63, including cost-benefit analyses for universal eligibility covering all NZDF service members.*
- *NZDF internal reviews or consultations on the two-tier system (Scheme One vs. Two) and its impact on post-1974 veterans' access to support.*

3. *Coordination and Gaps:*

- *Details of MoD/NZDF protocols for data-sharing with VANZ/ACC on eligibility (e.g., service records for claims), including any identified gaps from the 2019 Veterans' Advisory Board Report.*
- *Number of NZDF-supported deployment reviews (post-2020) that affected eligibility, with anonymized examples of added/excluded operations.*

The Ministry of Defence has not been involved in the matters you raise, and no relevant information has been identified. As such, your request is declined pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

I understand that your request has been sent separately to the New Zealand Defence Force. I can confirm they are best-placed to respond as the responsible agency for Veterans matters.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

Hamish Rogers

Deputy Secretary, Governance, People and Executive Services Division