Defence House
34 Bowen Street
Wellington, New Zealand

P +64 (04) 496 0999
E info@defence.govt.nz

PO Box 12703
Molesworth Street
Wellington 6144, New Zealand

www.defence.govt.nz

MANATŪ KAUPAPA WAONGA
NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

29 October 2026

RESPONSE TO YOUR INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 22 October 2026, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), reports, research or other material relating to the socioeconomic backgrounds of staff or personnel. In particular, you have sought whether the Ministry of Defence has collected, analysed, or considered collecting information on:

- Parental occupation.
- Parental education.
- First-in-family university attendance.
- Socioeconomic background.
- Social mobility.
- First-generation professionals.

The Ministry has not identified any information in scope of your request. As such, it is declined, pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act – that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Please note that the Ministry is a civilian agency responsible for the development of defence policy, international defence engagements and the delivery of major capability projects. We are a separate agency from the New Zealand Defence Force, which includes the military services. You should approach the NZDF directly regarding their work, and can contact them via this page on the NZDF website: https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/contact-us/.

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

Yours sincerely

Melissa Thorn
Chief People Officer