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MANATŪ KAUPAPA WAONGA
NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

19 November 2026

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2026, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), *the total number of employees who are currently*:

- *on garden leave;*
- *on paid suspension;*
- *on paid special leave (including for mental health such as PTSD or similar reasons);*
- *on administrative leave with pay; or*
- *on any other employer-directed paid non-working arrangement under which the employee remains employed, continues to receive remuneration (whether full or partial), and has been directed not to perform some or all of their normal duties*

You also requested associated information pertaining to employment status, leave categories, salary bands and the length of leave taken, for any employees included in the above categories.

The Ministry of Defence does not have any employees who are currently taking the forms of leave you have outlined, including any equivalent employer-directed paid non-working arrangements. As a result, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

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