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

14 November 2025

TRANSFER OF YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2025, in which you asked, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you please explain why COVID vaccinations are still required for new recruits.

The Ministry of Defence is a civilian agency that is 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 and do not have a role in the recruitment of individual military personnel.

Accordingly, I am transferring your request to the New Zealand Defence force in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the Act.

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

Yours sincerely

Managing Principal Ministerial and Executive Services

cc: NZDF Ministerial Services
ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz