



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

OIA-2023-4823

18 September 2023



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request of 9 September 2023 seeking, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information concerning the New Zealand Army Badge:

all information pertaining to the Royal New Zealand Army badge found on page 43 of the NZDF Visual Identity Standards 2022; ie who designed it, what each symbol means etc, and relevant dates..

Information on the development of the five versions of the New Zealand Army Badge is provided below.

First Version. The original New Zealand Army Badge was adopted in 1949 and was an adaptation of the badge used by the British Army. The badge was intended to give a common identity to the reorganised, post-war, New Zealand Army. The only condition laid down by the British for its use was the addition of the letters NZ in gold placed under the main crown. This provision differentiated between the badge of the New Zealand Army and that of the British Army.



Second Version. On the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 the badges of the British Army and the New Zealand Army were redesigned. Both the main crown and the crown on the lion, which form part of the crest, were changed from the Tudor Crown of King George VI to the St Edward's Crown adopted by the new monarch. The final version of this new badge was authorised for New Zealand in 1954.



Third Version. On the 5 February 1995 a proposal to further change the New Zealand Army badge was published in the *Army News*. The article suggested the replacement of one of the two swords with a Māori warrior's taiaha. A few months later, several tentative designs appeared in the *Army News* together with an article that requested suggestions for other designs from the newspaper's readers.



Fourth Version. The idea lapsed until the Chief of General Staff issued a Special Order of the Day on 24 May 1999 changing the Army Badge to incorporate the words 'Ngati Tumatauenga' and to replace one crossed sword with a taiaha. The change emphasised the culture of the New



Zealand Army. The new badge was used in several configurations until 7 February 2000 when the Chief of General Staff approved the standard coloured master.

Fifth Version. On 25 September 2000 application was made to the New Zealand Herald of Arms for a royal licence to be granted for the new badge. Following approval of the design by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the badge was presented, in its now heraldically correct form, to the Chief of General Staff by the Herald of Arms on 16 July 2002. The coloured master, representing the original approved by the Queen, was approved by the Chief of General Staff in September 2002.



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

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF