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OIA-2023-4864

19 December 2023

██████████  
██████████@stuff.co.nz

Dear ██████████

I refer to your email of 14 November 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

*Assuming NZDF already does drug testing, can I get, under the OIA, a year-by-year breakdown for the past five years of the tests that have come back positive.*

*For each positive can I find out:*

- *What drug was detected?*
- *Whether the person was regular force, non-regular force, or a civilian?*
- *Were they in NZ at the time of the alleged drug use?*
- *If overseas, where were they serving?*
- *Were they reprimanded or stood down from duty as a result?*

*(I am only interested in drugs that are illegal in NZ)*

The table below provides positive confirmatory drug test results, broken down by year and drug type. The data reflects results from 1 November 2018 to 1 November 2023 for New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Regular Force personnel. All tests were conducted in New Zealand.

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
LAB tests sent for analysis <sup>1</sup>	2	27	15	4	5	18
Return for MDA		12	6			3
Return for MDMA		17	6		1	3
Return for THC Acid	2	6	8	4	3	16
Return for Methamphetamine		2				
Return for Amphetamine		3			1	
Return for LSD		1				

Not all charges for drug offences are a result of a confirmatory drug test. A detailed review of individual personnel records and case files would be required to determine the number of NZDF personnel charged as a result of a positive drug test. Accordingly, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as the information cannot be made available without a substantial collation and research effort.

<sup>1</sup> Note, some LAB test results saw more than one drug detected.

For your information, however, please find enclosed data where the NZDF found personnel guilty of use, possession and/or supply under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975, or the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013. Where information was not readily retrievable it is reported as "n/a" (not available). The data does not include charges in the civilian court system.

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](http://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

**Enclosure:**

1. Drug Offences, 2018 – 2023

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Enclosure 1

2018

Class of Drug	Punishment
A	\$1500 fine
A	Reduction in rank & \$1350.96 fine
C	5 days extras & a reprimand
B	14 days detention & a reprimand
C	21 days extras

2019

Class of Drug	Punishment
B	\$300 fine & a reprimand
C	\$633 fine, 8 days extras & a reprimand
B	7 days detention
C	\$384.36 fine
B	9 months stay of seniority & \$2000 fine
B	22 days detention
C	7 days detention
C	7 days detention
B	10 days detention
C	7 days detention
C	17 days detention
C	Reduction in rank & 6 days stoppage
B	Reduction in rank & \$1460.06 fine
B	16 days detention
B & C	8 days detention
B	n/a
A	20 days detention
B	n/a
B	\$543.52 fine
B	16 days detention
B	12 days detention
A	10 days confinement & \$500 fine
A	11 days detention
B	14 days detention & \$300 fine
B	Reduction in rank & \$800 fine
B	\$1075.25 fine
B	21 days detention
B	10 days detention
C	10 days detention
C	7 days detention
B	10 days detention
B	126 days detention & dismissal
A, B, C	365 days detention, reduction in rank & dismissal

2020

Class of Drug	Punishment
B & C	Reduction in rank

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C	21 days detention
B	12 months detention & dismissal
B	11 months detention & dismissal
B	Reduction in rank & \$1088.08 fine
B	Reduction in rank & \$1618.00
B	n/a
A	24 days detention & 3300 fine
B	n/a
C	28 days detention & \$250 fine
C	14 days detention & \$250 fine
B	n/a
B	n/a
B	10 days detention & \$500 fine
A & B	17 days confinement & \$151.25 fine
B	10 days detention
A, B, C	12 days detention
B	10 days detention
B	10 days detention
B	21 days detention
B, C	\$1500 fine
B	85 days detention and dismissal

**2021**

<b>Class of Drug</b>	<b>Punishment</b>
B	14 days detention
B	12 days detention
C	Reduction in rank
C	14 days detention
B	9 days detention
B	14 days detention
B	Reduction in rank
B	Fine of \$1304.10, reprimand
B	18 days detention
A, B	Reduction in rank, reprimand

**2022**

<b>Class of Drug</b>	<b>Punishment</b>
B	Fine of \$1914, 21 days detention
C	14 days detention
C	9 days detention
C	16 days detention, fine of \$885.36
C	17 days detention, fine of 852.84
B	21 days detention
B	Reduction in rank, fine of \$500
C	11 days detention, fine of \$817.65
B	14 days confinement
C	7 days confinement, fine of \$300
B	9 days confinement
C	6 months, 15 days stay of seniority, fine of \$250

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2023

<b>Class of Drug</b>	<b>Punishment</b>
C	7 days detention
C	7 days detention
C	14 days confinement
C	21 days detention
C	21 days detention
C	14 days detention
C	28 days detention
C	12 months stay of seniority, fine of \$400