



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

OIA-2024-5004

23 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 April 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

- 1. What are the most up-to-date statistics on the ethnic background(s) of members of the NZDF?*
- 2. What are the most up-to-date statistics on the religion(s) held by members of the NZDF? If possible, please provide statistics on each of these by branch (Army, Air, and Navy) and by sub-groups (e.g. Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles).*

Percentages of the declared ethnicities of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) civilian staff and Regular Force personnel is provided in the below table. Note, individuals may declare more than one ethnicity, therefore totals may be greater than 100%.

Ethnicity	Civilian	Navy	Army	Air Force
European	42.2%	46.8%	50.4%	54.3%
Other	24.8%	32.4%	29.0%	35.2%
Maori	8.7%	23.0%	21.0%	9.9%
Asian	5.4%	3.7%	3.9%	4.8%
MELAA	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%
Pacific Peoples	4.1%	8.5%	6.8%	3.5%
Not Stated	23.5%	2.5%	2.9%	3.2%

Percentages of the declared religious affiliations of NZDF civilian staff and Regular Force personnel is provided in the below table. Where privacy becomes a concern, the percentage is provided as <0.5%. This is in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. For the same reason data is not broken down by sub-groups or individual units.

Religious affiliation	Civilian	Navy	Army	Air Force
Buddhism	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Christianity	25.6%	40.4%	39.7%	40.2%
Hinduism	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Islam	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Judaism	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Sikh	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Other	2.4%	4.9%	4.8%	2.7%
No Religion	22.4%	51.5%	51.5%	52.1%
Not declared	47.9%	3.2%	2.7%	3.7%

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