



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
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Wellington Mail Centre
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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5090

19 August 2024



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 22 July 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Chaplaincy. Specifically, you have requested the following information:

How many chaplains does the Defence Force employ?

There are currently 24 Regular Force Chaplains and five Reserve Force Chaplains. NZDF Chaplains are available 24/7 providing support to uniformed personnel, civilian staff, and their respective families. Support to former members of the NZDF is also available in a number of areas such as funerals, reunions, welfare matters, and can be a key link to ensure ongoing support is received. Chaplains are from a range of backgrounds and cultures and work to find the right support for NZDF members and their families.

What is the religion division of these chaplains?

At present, all of the NZDF Chaplains are drawn from the Christian tradition representing a range of different denominations. There are efforts underway to broaden this representation in consultation with other faith bodies.

How many are currently on base as at 22/7/2024 and how many are deployed?

As at 22 July 2024, there were 18 Regular Force Chaplains posted to a Camp or Base and two deployed. Four were either on leave or undertaking required courses.

How much overall is spent on chaplains overall remuneration, and how much is budgeted for chaplaincy services as a whole in the Defence Force?

For the 2023/24 financial year, the total remuneration costs for both Regular Force and Reserve Force Chaplains was \$2,876,257. Remuneration costs for the 2024/25 financial year are expected to be similar. The operating budget for the 2024/25 financial year is \$260,590.

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