



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

OIA-2024-5172

*John*  
November 2024

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 14 October 2024, requesting information about Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and responses are provided below.

*I would like to request the following information where possible. How many currently serving personnel in the*

- 1. Royal New Zealand Navy*
- 2. New Zealand Army*
- 3. Royal New Zealand Airforce*

*Are currently serving with the condition "Ankylosing Spondylitis"?*

A breakdown by Service of current personnel presenting with AS, as the condition was not present when they attested, is provided below:

Service	Number
Royal New Zealand Navy	1
New Zealand Army	4
Royal New Zealand Air Force	5

*Further to this have there been any candidates in the past 5 years who have been accepted into basic training with this condition?*

No.

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

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF