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OIA-2022-4515

12 October 2022

Mr Greg Samson
fyi-request-20548-95ef6f04@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Samson

I refer to your Email of 13 September 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

1. *How many personnel within the NZDF have a total leave balance above the recommended level outlined in NZDF policy (broken down by rank)?*

The tables at enclosure one provide the number of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Regular Force personnel and civilian staff who had leave balances of 25-plus days for each of the past five financial years. Because of the low numbers involved, the data for personnel of Brigadier equivalent rank and above has been combined.

2. *How many personnel have been approved the cash up of annual leave above the standard entitlement or special provisions provided to all NZDF personnel?*
3. *What number of personnel, broken down by rank (including civilian equivalent positions), have been given individual approval to cash-up additional leave above their given entitlement?*

The below table details how many NZDF personnel have cashed up leave entitlements over the past five financial years. No member of the NZDF has cashed up leave above their given entitlement.

Financial Year	Total personnel who cashed up annual leave
2021/2022	3,580
2020/2021	3,685
2019/2020	3,867
2018/2019	3,572
2017/2018	3,601

4. *How much money from the NZDF budget allocation for personnel expenditure has been returned to government per year for the past five years?*

The Vote: Defence Force Budget appropriation allocates funding for the NZDF for capital expenditure, projects to purchase and regenerate capabilities, and to maintain the delivery of military outputs. The NZDF determines its own budget for personnel expenditure based

on funding received in each year's appropriation. The NZDF has not returned any of its personnel budget to the Government.

Other information pertaining to NZDF personnel matters is publically available via Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee website¹.

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.

Yours sincerely



AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Annual leave balances for the past five years

¹ https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/53SCFD_EVI_123905_FD1227/vote-defence-force-responses-to-supplementary-questions

Enclosure 1**Regular Force Personnel by Rank Equivalent with Annual Leave Balance of 25+ Days for the Past Five Years**

Rank Equivalent	FY 2021/22	FY 2020/21	FY 2019/20	FY 2018/19	FY 2017/18
Private (E) ²	380	363	216	151	175
Lieutenant Corporal (E)	623	387	323	305	354
Corporal (E)	545	361	332	333	345
Sergeant (E)	410	270	275	263	291
Senior Sergeant (E)	322	220	227	200	227
Warrant Officer 2 (E)	71	57	62	58	59
Warrant Officer 1 (E)	152	102	121	98	105
Officer Cadet (E)	13	6	8	11	11
Second Lieutenant (E)	72	40	43	48	18
Lieutenant (E)	114	92	88	79	95
Captain (E)	327	249	225	199	228
Major (E)	253	193	227	184	202
Lieutenant Colonel (E)	132	107	127	106	118
Colonel (E)	42	33	37	37	37
Brigadier (E) and above	14	13	16	18	17
Total	3,470	2,493	2,327	2,090	2,282

² (E) refers to rank equivalent, where the New Zealand Army rank structure is used for consistency.

Civilian Personnel with Annual Leave Balance of 25+ Days for the Past Five Years

FY 2021/22	FY 2020/21	FY 2019/20	FY 2018/19	FY 2017/18
663	447	561	422	462