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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

5 March 2024

Katrina Tamaira
fyi-request-25743-1947661a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Katrina

RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your email of 15 February via our website, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *As of February 2024, does the Ministry of Defence know how many New Zealand citizens are on active duty within the Israeli Defence Forces.*
- *If known, how many, or an estimate, New Zealand citizens are currently serving.*
- *If known, how many, or an estimate, New Zealand citizens are currently serving in Gaza and the West Bank.*
- *Does the Ministry know if New Zealand citizens have been engaged in activity in Gaza or the West Bank that many contravene the Genocide Convention, activity that was recently the subject of an International Court of Justice ruling brought by government of South Africa.*

The Ministry of Defence is the lead government civilian advisor responsible for the development of defence policy, international defence engagements and the delivery of major capability projects.

The Ministry has no responsibilities for the matters that you raise. As such, I am declining your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Schmidt'.

Richard Schmidt
Deputy Secretary, Policy and Planning