



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

OIA-2024-4970

22 April 2024

Hamish Kirk
fyi-request-26247-1a6430e8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Hamish Kirk

I refer to your email of 27 March 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I seek to understand the number of Bachelor of Theology, or Bachelor of Ministry degrees currently held by NZDF serving Regular Force Chaplains.

- 1) How many Regular Force Chaplain positions are there in the NZDF and how many of these positions are currently filled?*
- 2) How many CHAP4 chaplains are currently serving in the Regular Force? How many have a Bachelor of Theology, or a Bachelor of Ministry degree?*
- 3) How many CHAP3 chaplains are currently serving in the Regular Force? How many have a Bachelor of Theology, or a Bachelor of Ministry degree?*
- 4) How many CHAP2 chaplains are currently serving in the Regular Force? How many have a Bachelor of Theology, or a Bachelor of Ministry degree?*
- 5) Does the Chaplain Class 1 have a Bachelor of Theology, or a Bachelor of Ministry degree?*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) currently maintains 27 Regular Force chaplain positions. Of these, 22 are currently filled, with one chaplain currently posted to initial training, one to advanced training, and one to an operational mission. Information that concerns identifiable individuals is withheld to protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

The NZDF does not maintain formal records of an individual's qualifications. There is provision for individuals to voluntarily enter their qualifications in the ESS system. Three individuals have chosen to enter qualifications, being: a Bachelor of Theology; a Bachelor of Ministry; and a Master of Theology.

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