



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

OIA-2024-5039

19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Chris

[fyi-request-26901-ae76c320@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26901-ae76c320@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Chris

I refer to your email of 23 May 2024 requesting information on foreign medals awarded to the former Chief of Defence Force (CDF) under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The response to your request is as follows:

*1. Citations for these medals*

The citations of the Order of Australia and the United States of America (USA) Legion of Merit presented to Air Marshal (rtd) Kevin Short are at Enclosure 1.

*2. Who approved him being awarded foreign medals?*

The Prime Minister, supported by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), provides advice to the Governor-General to approve foreign awards. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is not a part of the approval process.

*3. Has the Governor General approved him to wear those medals with his uniform? If not, has a request been made? Can I please see the paperwork that was done for this?*

As per the email of 14 June 2024, this part of your request has been transferred to DPMC in accordance with the OIA.

*4. What budget did the NZDF use for ceremonies presenting the medals?*

The awards were presented by foreign militaries. There is no budget or cost for this to the NZDF.

*4. Do soldiers have to accept medals awarded to them?*

Serving military personnel are required to accept official New Zealand awards. Foreign awards that have been approved to wear by the New Zealand government must be accepted by the serving personnel in question.

*6. Has the CDF had the medals mounted?*

Yes.

*7. How long from the time that the medals were first offered to the time they were accepted by the CDF?*

The former CDF was informed of the intention to offer the award in February 2024, through a verbal conversation. Approval from DPMC to accept the award was provided to the American embassy on 5 April 2024. The award was presented to the former CDF on 6 April 2024.

In relation to the Order of Australia, the intention to offer the award was brought to the former CDF's attention on 14 April 2022. DPMC approved acceptance of the award in June 2022 and the award was formally presented to the former CDF in March 2023.

*8. How long from the time that the CDF asked the GG for approval to wear to the time approval was granted?*

NZDF personnel are not involved in the approval process, as per the email of 14 June 2024 this part of your request was transferred to DPMC in accordance the OIA.

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.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosure:**

1. Citations for the Legion of Merit and the Order of Australia