



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
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Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5760

7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Richard Matthews

[fyi-request-34426-4838d919@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34426-4838d919@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Richard Matthews

I refer to your email of 8 April 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the following information in relation to a Court of Inquiry into the injuries incurred during the Vehicle Mobility Training Course:

*Did SOCNZ investigate providing a 'commendation' to these soldiers?*

*What 'commendation', if any, has been provided to the soldiers involved in this incident?*

*Please provide communication (such as emails) regarding the decision to either provide or withhold a 'commendation' to these soldiers.*

*If no consideration (by any party) has been given to providing a 'commendation', please state this.*

There is no record of consideration by Special Operations Component New Zealand for any award or commendation in relation to this incident.

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

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF