



National Headquarters
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
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22 June 2026

Ref: 21911

D Greenhalgh
FYI website
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Tēnā koe D

Thank you for your request of 26 May 2026 to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *"I would like to request a list of ranks and insignia in use by the NZFS from its formation in 1976 up until its dissolution in 2017. Please may this list include if possible the timeframe in which specific ranks were used, their insignia (both epaulettes and helmet markings), and what preceded/succeeded them. I understand these are historical documents, so if records are no longer held, please direct me to an authority that holds this information if one exists."*

We have conducted a search for the requested information and can confirm that we are unable to locate the rank and insignia schedule used by the former New Zealand Fire Service between 1976 – 2008. For this reason, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

However, we can provide the rank and insignia schedule for the years 2009 – 2017 and please find a copy attached as the **Appendix** to this response. Please note, the way the information has been recorded does not separate each rank and their insignia by the time period they were used.

You may be able to find some of the requested information at brigade museums or historical societies.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

We trust that the information being provided is of assistance. If you require further information, please email officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Saunders', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aidan Saunders
Manager, Information Requests

