



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

3 February 2026



Ref: OIA OIA-2025/26-0434

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request: NZDF nominations for Royal Honours**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 13 January 2026. You requested:

*Please provide me with the numbers of nominations for Royal Honours received from the NZ Defence Force in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025.*

The Honours Unit receives approximately 800 to 1000 nominations for appointment to New Zealand Royal Honours every year and up to about 400 honours are granted each year across the combined New Year and King's Birthday lists. Protecting the confidentiality of material about Honours nominations and appointments is essential to maintaining the integrity of the New Zealand Royal Honours system. In particular, the protection of such information ensures that those engaging with the Honours system can rely on the confidentiality of the process.

Successive Ombudsmen have considered that information relating to the Honours system may be withheld under the Official Information Act because there is a strong public interest in the protection of the confidentiality of the Honours process. Even revealing the numbers of nominations from a particular organisation, when combined with publicly available information, could indicate whether all nominations from that organisation were successful and/or whether the organisation was likely to have nominated a particular person.

Accordingly, I am withholding the number of nominations received from the New Zealand Defence Force received for each list between 2023 and 2025 under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence and where making it available would be likely to otherwise damage the public interest.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

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This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rg Hayward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rachel Hayward  
**Clerk of the Executive Council**