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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

22 March 2022

M Fitzgibbon
Fyi-request-18379-34ad37d4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M. Fitzgibbon

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 31 January 2022, in which you request, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), any correspondence between the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and vice versa, and between the Ministry and the Minister and vice versa, regarding:

- 1) *the COVID-19 vaccination and the mandating of the COVID-19 vaccination and any exemptions to it,*
- 2) *the COVID-19 vaccination and the mandating of the COVID-19 vaccination and the NZ Bill of Rights act.*

On 25 February, the Ministry informed you of an extension to part one of your request in order to consult other agencies, and addressed part two. Consultation on part one of your request is now complete and a copy of the requested material is enclosed.

The Ministry of Defence is located in Defence House, which is a Defence Area managed by the NZDF. As you will see from the material enclosed, the Ministry received correspondence from the Defence Force that attached NZDF information on vaccine requirements, which is the responsibility of that organisation. This information created by the NZDF will be considered in their response to your other requests to them on this matter.

In respect of the material enclosed it is necessary to withhold some information for the following reasons as indicated in the documents:

- staff names, contact details and other personal information is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect individual privacy
- group email address are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, to protect employees from improper pressure or harassment, and
- certain information is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(h) of the Act, to maintain legal professional advice.

It is not considered that the public interest in this information outweighs the need to protect it.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely



Carol Douglass
Deputy Secretary, Governance, People and Executive Services

Documents covered by your request:

1	Email 10/11/2021: <i>RE: Urgent comment sought on Cabinet paper re COVID vaccination requirements in the workplace</i>
2	Email 19/11/2021: <i>FW: CDF Directive 26/2021 – VACCINATION STATUS AS AN ENTRY REQUIREMENT TO CERTAIN DEFENCE AREAS</i>
3	Email 22/11/2021: <i>COVID-19: Vaccine Mandate Cabinet Paper – HQ NZDF Brief for Min Def</i>
4	Email: 01/12/2021: <i>RE: COVID-19 Management Transition Instructions and Considerations – Defence Area Wellington</i>
5	Email 02/12/2021: <i>RE: MOD COVID-19 Update to Staff – FYI</i>
6	Email 09/12/2021: <i>FW: Fully Vaccinated Requirement for Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force – Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, Pipitea</i>
7	Email 09/12/2021: <i>Vaccination Mandated for Access to Defence House from 16 December</i>
8	Email 15/12/2021: <i>RE: CDF Directive 33/2021-Vaccination status as an entry requirement to certain Defence Areas</i>
9	Email: 15/12/2021: <i>Vaccination status as an entry requirement to Defence Areas</i>
10	Email 26/01/2022: <i>RE: Clarification about building access – medical exemptions</i>
11	Email 09/11/2021: <i>Vaccination Mandate for Auckland Defence Areas</i>
12	Email 02/11/2021: <i>RE: URGENT Feedback sought on COVID related work, Crown Law advice on vaccinations and update on guidelines</i>
13	Attachment to email 12: <i>Crown Law advice – withheld in full under section 9(2)(h)</i>
14	Attachment to email 12: <i>MBIE presentation: COVID-19 vaccination and workplaces</i>

