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OIA-2022-4381

18 May 2022

M. Fitzgibbon
fyi-request-19188-8aa5daf3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M. Fitzgibbon

I refer to your request of 20 April 2022, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following:

1. *Please supply the number of permanent medical down grades, for NZDF Service Members, occurring each month from 2012 until March 2022. Broken down in a table by year and month.*

Defence Health does not record *permanent medical down grades*, therefore this part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

If a medical officer considers that a member of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does not meet the medical grading required for their current employment, advice on their limitations and capability is provided to the member's command, and their medical grading is altered accordingly. If the period of limitation is considered likely to be prolonged, the member's command will be advised of this to enable an informed decision on the retention of the individual.

2. *Please also supply the number of Acute Cardiac events occurring each month to NZDF Service members between the dates of 2012 and March 2022. Broken down in a table by year and month.*
(Acute Cardiac events include but not limited to Cardiac Arrest, Heart Attack, pericarditis, myocarditis, and endocarditis).

The information you have requested is not required for regular NZDF reporting and is not held in a readily retrievable format. Exporting and compiling data for all relevant medical conditions for all personnel over the last 10 years represents a substantial collation and research effort. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA.

The table provided at enclosure two shows, however, reported cases of 'chest pain' since 2017, by month and year. Please note that 'chest pain' can cover a wide range of clinical presentations and diagnoses, often unrelated to cardiac conditions, for example, exercise-related chest injuries. These cannot be filtered out without reviewing each case.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely



AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Chest pain, January 2017 – March 2022

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Enclosure One – Chest Pain Cases

Year / Month	Chest Pain Cases
2017	
Jan	1
Feb	3
Mar	5
Apr	9
May	11
Jun	3
Jul	8
Aug	3
Sep	7
Oct	3
Nov	2
Dec	3
2018	
Jan	2
Feb	7
Mar	10
Apr	3
May	6
Jun	3
Jul	3
Aug	5
Sep	1
Oct	1
Nov	6
Dec	6
2019	
Jan	6
Feb	2
Mar	6
Apr	5
May	5
Jun	2
Jul	4
Aug	8
Sep	12
Oct	4
Nov	8
Dec	3
2020	
Jan	4
Feb	4
Mar	4

Apr	4
May	3
Jun	6
Jul	7
Aug	3
Sep	6
Oct	8
Nov	7
Dec	2
2021	
Jan	3
Feb	4
Mar	7
Apr	5
May	7
Jun	11
Jul	16
Aug	7
Sep	6
Oct	3
Nov	7
Dec	5
2022	
Jan	9
Feb	15
Mar	4
Grand Total	343