

OIA-2015-2170

2 February 2015

Liam Stoneley

fyi-request-2382-e4c0badd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Stoneley

I refer to your email of 9 January 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about Regular Force and Territorial Forces personnel. You asked:

Could you please provide me with the number of RF and TF personnel (including civilians) for the last 10 years. Please separate the two sets of data.

Further, could you please provide the number of new recruits for both RF and TF every year for the last 10 years. Also, please separate.

Finally, please provide what policy the NZDF has with regards to TF soldiers who do not attend the minimum amount of days training required of them (please provide the expectation of amount of service per year). And what is the NZDF doing to ensure that training and equipment sunk into these TF recruits is worth the costs and not just providing a "summer job" with TF soldiers not continuing to participate in exercises.

I have attached two tables with the personnel numbers you requested. Table 1 shows the number of people in the Regular Force and in the Territorial Forces, and the numbers of civilian staff for all Services, as at 31 December for each of the last ten years.

Table 2 reports the number of new recruits in the Regular Force and Territorial Forces in each of the last ten financial years (1 July to 30 June, 2005 to 2014). These figures include only recruits with no previous military service, and exclude those who re-enlisted or who were recruited from overseas Services.

In the last decade, much effort has gone into ensuring that the Army's Territorial Forces members contribute to the activities of the New Zealand Defence Force as a whole. Territorials personnel train to achieve a level of competence consistent with their skill set, rank and unit. The average number of days service expected in a year is 24, although this can vary depending on an individual's role. Some specialists are not expected to undertake 24 days training, while junior commanders are expected to complete more. The Territorial Forces also include a valuable pool of ex-Regulars who have no set number of training days automatically required of them. Though these members may not fully participate in training, retaining their knowledge and

experience is nonetheless valuable. For most Territorial Forces members, sustained absences from training can affect an individual's progress. Some may take the option to reduce their commitment to a position in the stand-by reserve. Non-effective personnel, of course, will eventually be dismissed.

The value of devoting a training effort to Territorial Forces members was most recently demonstrated when their skills were employed in the Solomon Islands. The participation of Territorial Forces members as part of the Regional Assistance Mission enabled Regular Force personnel to re-deploy to Afghanistan to contribute to the provincial reconstruction effort in Bamian. Territorial Force members acquire the skills necessary to assist the New Zealand Defence Force in meeting its operational requirements.

I trust this satisfies your request for information.

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH

Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Calendar Year	Regular Force	Territorial Forces	Civilian Staff
31 December 2005	8,566	2,440	2,161
31 December 2006	8,926	2,385	2,313
31 December 2007	8,950	2,270	2,329
31 December 2008	9,340	2,184	2,630
31 December 2009	9,737	2,263	2,667
31 December 2010	9,587	2,427	2,539
31 December 2011	8,758	2,412	2,554
31 December 2012	8,394	2,397	2,732
31 December 2013	8,538	2,368	2,874
31 December 2014	8,930	2,271	2,857

Table 1: Regular Force, Territorial Forces and civilian staff strength in the last ten years.

Financial Year	Regular Force	Territorial Forces
2004/05	1,045	329
2005/06	1,196	235
2006/07	949	234
2007/08	1,199	206
2008/09	1,139	278
2009/10	624	191
2010/11	792	204
2011/12	758	150
2012/13	1,085	198
2013/14	1,108	175

Table 2: Regular Force and Territorial Forces new recruits in the last ten years.