

11 August 2025

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Release

Tēnā koe <sup>Personal details removed  
for Proactive Release</sup>

Thank you for your email of 24 July 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Into which of the two IHL statuses does MFAT and confederates categorize NZ healthcare professionals? Civilian or Militarian?"*

*This query includes both the majority who are self-employed in civilian society, as well as the minority who are employed in civilian society. If there are differences between the professions, please specifically identify the presumed status for each profession. A one word reply (i.e.: civilian or militarian) is required for each of the following healthcare professions who work in/for civil(ian/ised) society: Dentists, doctors, midwives and nurses.*

*If you are unable to provide a one word reply because there is, in fact, an intermediary status, please clearly declare what this status is called."*

Information concerning the protections afforded to medical personnel can be found in *New Zealand's Report on the Domestic Implementation of International Humanitarian Law*. This report is publicly available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry) website. Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/human-rights/report-on-the-domestic-implementation-of-international-humanitarian-law#:~:text=New%20Zealand%E2%80%99s%20Report%20On%20Domestic%20Implementation%20of%20International,record%20of%20domestic%20implementation%20and%20promotion%20of%20IHL](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/human-rights/report-on-the-domestic-implementation-of-international-humanitarian-law#:~:text=New%20Zealand%E2%80%99s%20Report%20On%20Domestic%20Implementation%20of%20International,record%20of%20domestic%20implementation%20and%20promotion%20of%20IHL)

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written over a faint dotted line.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade