



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4710

29 June 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 2 May 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information concerning Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) experimentation with the M134D-M Minigun.

- The amount spent on the M124 Minigun(s) - broken down by how the money was spent (i.e., on procurement, ammunition, consultation, training costs etc).*
- Copies of all email correspondence re the M124 Minigun (external and internal).*
- A list of assessments which have or will be conducted as part of its trial. Please provide copies of all documents which have been generated as part of its assessment.*
- What other technologies are being investigated or have been procured under the navy experimentation programme? Please provide a list and indicate the status of each. Please provide copies of any presentation slides or written briefings generated for the programme.*
- What briefings, meetings, presentations or reports have or will be undertaken in relation to the programme? Please provide a list indicating the status of each.*

M134D-M training and Fleet Unit live fire experimentation activities have been completed and the next step will be mounting and conducting live firing from sea boats. As at April 2023, incidental expenses covering travel, accommodation and ammunition totalled approximately \$51,000. Other costs are withheld in full in accordance with section 9(2)(j) to enable negotiations without disadvantage.

Searches for relevant email correspondence were undertaken. Using "M134D-M" as a keyword produced no relevant results; using "minigun" as a keyword produced more than nine thousand results. A substantial research and collation effort to identify relevant correspondence would require a manual search of those results as New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) systems do not allow for a further digital refinement. Therefore this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA.

As the experimentation programme is ongoing, documentation concerning the details is withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA. Information on uncrewed surface vehicles (USV) and the M134D-M Minigun that can be made public is, and will be, available in issues of *Navy Today* at various points in time.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF