



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

OIA-2023-4775

25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 16 June 2023 to The Treasury requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 6 July 2023, The Treasury transferred parts j and k of your request to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for consideration. Responses are provided below.

*j) top ups in staff required to administer the Covid response*

No additional staffing was required by the NZDF to contribute to the Government's response to COVID-19.

*k) costs of replacing defence force any other staff who left disillusioned with MIQ*

The financial costs associated with Operation Protect (the mission name for NZDF support to the all-of-government response to COVID-19) were met from within NZDF baselines, there was no additional cost. The NZDF does not hold information on personnel who voluntarily left because they were "disillusioned" with duties at Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities.

A question regarding participation in Operation Protect as a reason for deciding to leave the NZDF was added to the exit survey from 1 April 2021. The question asked whether Operation Protect was very important, somewhat important, slightly important, or not at all important, in the decision to leave. There was no question specific to duties or feelings of "disillusionment" at an MIQ facility.

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](http://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