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OIA-2024-5088

10 October 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 19 July 2024 to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) resubmitting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), part of your request of 13 May 2024 as per the below:

Part Two

Military equipment

Old

how many vehicles (please treat this broadly to include mechanized assets such as aircraft, boats, etc) does the NZDF own and/or lease by branch?

For each branch -

- *how many vehicles are non-obsolete?*
- *how many vehicles are obsolete and still in use?*
- *how many vehicles are obsolete and set for disposal by sale and/or other method?*
- *please specify by pie graph the proportions of*
 - a. non-obsolete v*
 - b. obsolete and in use v*
 - c. obsolete and not in use.*
- *within each of (a) to (c),*
 - o for Army, please specify the proportion that are tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and other./*
 - o for Navy, the proportion of frigates, coast guard boats, and other)/*
 - o for Airforce, the proportion of Hercules, armed helicopters and other).*
- *within (a), what proportion will become obsolete with the next 5 years and 10 years.*
- *within (b), what proportion will be no longer in use in the next 5 years and 10 years.*

Breakdowns

- *for Army - how many times have tanks and trucks broken down in the past 6 years?*
- *for Airforce - how many times have Hercules and other vehicles broken down in the past 6 years?*
- *for Navy - how many frigates and other vehicles broken down in the past 6 years?*

I apologise for the considerable length of time it has taken to provide this response.

This part of your request is for a substantial amount of information given the significant number of vehicles operated by the NZDF. Considering this broadly, as you have requested, would require a significant research and collation effort across various parts of the NZDF as information such as equipment state and condition is not centrally recorded or readily retrievable. Unless information is already presented in a format requested, the NZDF does not create documents where to do so would impair efficient administration.

Enclosed is information that has previously been released concerning military equipment and platforms in service as at 1 July 2024. The following may also be of assistance to you:

- the NZDF does not operate *obsolete* assets/platforms;
- NZDF assets/equipment that are surplus to requirements may be disposed of by sale and, where appropriate, information on this is made public via the GETS website (www.gets.govt.nz);
- information that is directly related to current capabilities will not be released in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA;
- information on NZDF equipment is available on the NZDF website¹;
- the NZDF does not have any tanks. There are 82 New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicles (NZLAV) with 74 of these in operational service. Eight are surplus to requirements;
- information on vehicles is publicly available in the Estimates for Vote Defence Force and the Annual Review of Vote Defence Force to the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Select Committee;²
- a recent response concerning the condition of the frigates is publicly available on the NZDF website.³

New

how many vehicles (please treat this broadly to include mechanized assets such as aircraft, boats, etc) does the NZDF plan to own and/or lease by branch by 2030 or earlier?

For each branch -

- (a) how many vehicles will be added and/or improved?*
- (b) how many vehicles will be replaced?*
- (c) how many vehicles will be sold?*

please specify by pie graph the proportions of (a) to (c),

Within (a) to (c), specify:

- *for Army, please specify the proportion that will be tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, unimogs and pinzgauer trucks, and other.*
- *for Navy, the proportion of frigates, coast guard boats, and other)/*
- *for Airforce, the proportion of Hercules, armed helicopters and other.*

in the next 5 years what proportion of the new government spending will go towards

- *Navy*
- *Army*
- *Airforce*

What are the actual dollar amounts?

By branch, specify how much of that amount will be spent on maintenance of existing vehicles by branch/ buying new vehicles/ improving existing new vehicles?

¹ <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdf/our-equipment/>

² <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/foreign-affairs-defence-and-trade/tab/report>

³ <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/OIA-2024-5001-frigate-condition.pdf>

By branch in the past 5 years -

- * what new vehicles has the NZDF purchased or leased?*
- * Of purchased vehicles, what has been paid for?*
- * Of vehicles paid for, what has been delivered? What delays have been experienced*
- * Of vehicles delivered, what has been made operational?*

By branch in the next 5 years -

- * how many new trained staff will be required to operate said vehicles? and by when?*
- * what is the deficit in personnel as currently stands?*

Future procurement decisions that will be made by the Government will be based upon the Defence Capability Plan which is currently under development. This information is therefore withheld in full in accordance with sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA. With respect to vehicles purchased or leased, this is available in reporting to the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Select Committee as previously noted.

Preparedness for War

- any NZDF or Ministry reports on New Zealand's preparedness to go to war/mobilise a quick reaction force in defence of the country and/or Pacific Islands*
- current state of the SAS and operational capabilities.*

The above information is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

- any plans to provide/sell vehicles to Ukraine including obsolete vehicles and/or LAVs.*

Information related to this part of your request is withheld in full in accordance with sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

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

Enclosure:

1. Military equipment/platforms

New Zealand Army

- 82 New Zealand Light Armoured Vehicles (NZLAV)
- 18 Bushmaster

Royal New Zealand Navy

- 2 Anzac class Frigates
- 2 Offshore Patrol Vessels
- 1 Polar-class sustainment vessel
- 1 Amphibious and military sealift vessel
- 1 Dive and hydrographic vessel
- 2 Inshore Patrol Vessels
- 2 Littoral Manoeuvre Craft

Royal New Zealand Air Force

- 4 P-8A Poseidon
- 2 B-757-200
- 3 C-130H Hercules
- 5 C-130J-30 Hercules (to be delivered in 2024)
- 11 T-6C Texan II
- 4 Beech 350 King Air (leased)
- 5 SH-2G(I) Super Seasprite
- 8 NH90
- 5 AW109