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OIA-2025-5454

25th July 2025

[redacted]
[redacted]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your email of 30 June 2025 requesting the following information:

Does the NZDF have any response to this report?

In particular, could the NZDF explain how the smart watch and fishing charter gifts came about?

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) welcomes the inquiry by the Auditor-General and will continue to ensure standards are maintained and improvements are made where required. No evidence was found of inappropriate influence of NZDF officials or decisions in relation to commercial contracts.

Since the Auditor-General inquiry, the NZDF has implemented several improvements to strengthen its oversight of gifts and hospitality. It has enhanced its Register with more meaningful categories to improve reporting and highlight probity risks, introduced live high-risk reporting to track supplier gratuity activity, and developed a frequent supplier report to identify patterns of giving. Targeted guidance has also been issued to all NZDF personnel to reinforce policy expectations and highlight the risks associated with accepting gifts or hospitality from commercial suppliers.

The NZDF accepts it needs to continue to work to ensure expectations are maintained. The policy on accepting gifts and hospitality reflects that the NZDF must maintain constructive working relationships with commercial suppliers in the defence industry, particularly in the context of future procurement and the need to rapidly advance defence capabilities.

Enclosed is a copy of the information recorded in the NZDF Register regarding smart watches and fishing trips. As noted in the Register, the Garmin wristwatches were provided as prizes to the top students on Royal New Zealand Navy courses. These had not been recorded in responses to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee as they were added to the Register retrospectively. They were, however, included within the data provided to the Auditor-General Inquiry team. Further detail is unavailable.

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

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. NZDF Gift Register extracts

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Enclosure 1

Smart Watches

ID	Date Received	Gift or Hospitality	Received By	Received From	Occasion	Estimated value (\$)
8064	29/11/2024	Garmin Wristwatch	Bridge Warfare Office Course Top Student	Serco	Personnel Recognition and Welfare	\$1,100
8063	22/11/2023	Garmin Wristwatch	Bridge Warfare Office Course Top Student	Serco	Personnel Recognition and Welfare	\$1,100
4575	29/04/2022	Garmin Wristwatch	Bridge Warfare Office Course Top Student	Serco	Personnel Recognition and Welfare	\$1,100
4574	15/06/2021	Garmin Wristwatch	Major Fleet Unit Navigation Officer Course Top Student	Serco	Personnel Recognition and Welfare	\$1,100
4573	7/05/2021	Garmin Wristwatch	Bridge Warfare Office Course Top Student	Serco	Personnel Recognition and Welfare	\$1,100
5278	30/03/2017	TomTom Watch x7	Fleet Sports Officer	Unknown	Personnel Recognition and Welfare	\$1,100

Fishing Trips

ID	Date Received	Gift or Hospitality	Received By	Received From	Occasion	Estimated value (\$)
1439	6/05/2021	Fishing Trip	Senior Procurement and Commercial Lead	Desert Road Group	Stakeholder Engagement	\$200
1440	6/05/2021	Fishing Trip	Senior Project Manager Land - NVE	Desert Road Group	Stakeholder Engagement	\$200
1441	6/05/2021	Fishing Trip	ILS Lead	Desert Road Group	Stakeholder Engagement	\$200
1442	6/05/2021	Fishing Trip	NVE RCR Maintenance Engineer	Desert Road Group	Stakeholder Engagement	\$200
1401	14/01/2021	Fishing Trip	Manager Land Delivery	Desert Road Group	Stakeholder Engagement	\$150
1175	23/08/2019	Fishing Trip	Director Operations Support Group	Eagle Technology	Industry Engagement	\$1,500
5949	26/03/2018	Fishing Trip	Science Researcher - Defence Technology Agency	Eagle Technology	Industry Engagement	\$150
5950	26/03/2018	Fishing Trip	Science Researcher - Defence Technology Agency	Eagle Technology	Industry Engagement	\$150
5289	11/04/2017	Fishing Trip	SNCO Geospatial Intelligence1 - 230SQN	Eagle Technology	Industry Engagement	\$700