




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

OIA-2025-5502

 August 2025

Dear 

I refer to your email of 29 July 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

The criteria for inviting Ethnic Arts & Trade Foundation on 31/10/24 (registered in July 24) for a presentation on Diwali. Photos available on Facebook page (11/11/24) of Trust

Were any funds allocated for the purpose.

Why was this trust which has 2 Sikh trustees & one Muslim trustee invited to give presentation on Diwali which is a HINDU festival & no Hindu was present.

There was no criteria applied. The Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB) was invited to deliver a presentation about Diwali and provide some Diwali-related activities at Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Auckland. No public funds were allocated to this event.

The presentation was coordinated by the WEB and included multiple cultural elements performed by several different persons, including a dance performance. You may wish to contact the WEB for further details.

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