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New Zealand Defence Force  
Defence House  
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Wellington Mail Centre  
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5600

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Dear 

I refer to your email of 12 November 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- **AI and digital automation spend**
  - A list of all projects, pilots or procurements undertaken by your agency use between 1 January 2023 and 31 October 2025 involving:
    - Artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning
    - Natural-language processing, transcription or summarisation tools
    - Automation, robotic process automation (RPA) or digital assistants
    - Predictive analytics or decision-support algorithms
    - Agentic AI
  - For each, please provide:
    - Project name and description
    - Vendor or delivery partner (if any)
    - Total cost to date and funding source
    - Total budget
    - Current status (active, completed, paused, cancelled)
    - Whether it was developed in-house or procured externally.
- **Broader technology-productivity initiatives**
  - Any reports or analyses since 1, January 2023 quantifying how technology investment (AI, automation, digital infrastructure) has contributed to **productivity or efficiency improvements** within your agency.
  - Any comparative or benchmarking data used to measure those gains.

Enclosure 1 contains the requested information about the New Zealand Defence Force AI and digital automation spend.

With regard to broader technology-productivity initiatives or comparative and/or benchmarking data, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

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

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosure:**

1. AI and digital automation spend

**AI & Digital Automation spend**

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Vendor/Delivery Partner</b>	<b>Total cost to date</b>	<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Development location</b>
Science capability development, professional development, technology assessment	Purchase and use of AI software tools and hardware for staff professional development and testing	PB Tech, Spark, Lamda	\$51,000	NZDF	\$51,000	Ongoing	Internal/Equipment procured externally
Machine Learning and AI for research	Use of Machine Learning (ML) for experimentation. Creation of AI assisted workflows for document sets.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ongoing	Internal
CAGE Challenge	Development of the CAGE challenge to foster experimentation of autonomous cyber defence agents ( <a href="https://cage-challenge.github.io/cage-challenge-4/">https://cage-challenge.github.io/cage-challenge-4/</a> )	University of Canterbury	\$0.00	N/A	N/A	Complete	External
Autonomy	Use of ML for navigation and safety of autonomy systems	AUT	\$55,000	NZDF	\$145,000	Ongoing	Internal/External
Humanity & Industry 4.0 - future insights	A series of consults between NZDF and DST scientists to develop a workshop supporting NZDF to consider the implications of advancements in automation, IoT, AI and robotics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Complete	Internal
Copilot Chat	Delivery of Copilot Chat across the organisation	Microsoft	None - included in M365 licensing	N/A	N/A	Complete	External