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OIA-2025-5607

3rd December 2025

David Zanetti
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Dear David Zanetti

I refer to your email of 21 November 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information with respect to Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Base Ohakea as a maintenance base for P-8A aircraft:

What maintenance or systems work will be performed at Ohakea or any other maintenance base within New Zealand, and what, if any, maintenance or systems work will take place outside New Zealand, and by what parties?

How often does NZDF expect it would need to send P-8A planes outside New Zealand for maintenance or major systems work, over the next 20 years?

Does NZDF intend to change the posture of the maintenance and systems capabilities at Ohakea in the future?

The P-8A maintenance facility at RNZAF Base Ohakea was designed and constructed with the intention that depot servicing – specific service packages prescribed by the manufacturer constituting deep maintenance with extensive inspections, overhaul of equipment or systems and requiring specialised skills and facilities – would be conducted overseas. Given our small fleet and the infrequent requirement, a depot-capable facility would not have been viable given the significant additional personnel, infrastructure and equipment necessary, particularly given existence of a suitable facility in Australia.

The RNZAF will conduct all P-8A aircraft servicing up to (but not including) depot servicing at RNZAF Base Ohakea. This includes repair work and regular flight hours or calendar-based servicing.

Depot servicing for the P-8A is planned to be carried out by Boeing Defence Australia at Royal Australian Air Force Base Edinburgh, South Australia. Additionally, some aircraft components such as engines and electronic systems will be serviced overseas where required.

Initial depot-level maintenance for the P-8A is required six years from production, then every five years thereafter.

There is no intention to change the posture of the RNZAF Base Ohakea maintenance and systems capabilities for the P-8A.

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.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF