



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

OIA-2026-5657

19th March 2026

[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 4 February 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. Copies of any requests (formal or informal) made between 20 October and 7 November 2025 by NEMA, Civil Defence Emergency Management groups, regional or local authorities, or any other agencies for NZDF aircraft assistance in relation to this emergency.
2. Records showing which NZDF aircraft types were requested, discussed, or considered for use (including both fixed-wing and rotary platforms).
3. Any internal correspondence, briefings, situation reports, or decision records held by either agency that reference:
 - a. aircraft availability for this emergency; and/or
 - b. assessment of suitability of different aircraft types for personnel transport or logistics support.
4. If any aircraft were requested but not deployed, the recorded reasons for this (for example operational constraints, availability, prioritisation, or capability considerations).
5. If no requests were received for certain aircraft types, confirmation of that fact.

When there is an emergency, requests for assistance are made to the National Crisis Management Centre in the form of National Coordination Tasks. These tasks are then received by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) via the appropriate liason officers.

Information within the scope of your request is provided at Enclosure 1. Where indicated: operational information is withheld under section 6(a) of the OIA, to avoid prejudice to the the security and defence of New Zealand; and, personal information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect privacy.

For your reference, a glossary of terms is provided below:

Acronym	Definition
OGALO	Other Government Agency Liason Officer
APOD	Aerial Port Of Debarkation
ODESC	Officials Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination
LERG	Local Emergency Response Group
HADR	Human Assistance and Disaster Relief
IVO	In Vicinity Of

The NZDF was not asked to provide specific aircraft types in response to this emergency, and no assessments of the *suitability of different aircraft types for personnel transport or logistics support* were generated.

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. Correspondence and documents

From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Saturday, 25 October 2025 10:59 a.m.
To: s. 6(a)
HQJFNZ Joint
Watch Centre
Cc: s. 6(a)
Subject: AWHINA Southland/Clutha: Support to NEMA request - 1100 25 Oct UPDATE
Importance: High

Morena All;

An update since s. 6(a) sent this yesterday.

1Bde please ack on receipt – for LERG confirmation.

Watchkeeper please phone 1Bde Ops to inform tasking.

Situation - UPDATE

1. At approximately 241445OCT(M) the HQ JFNZ OGALO departed HQJFNZ to support NEMA planning and has been in regular contact since, currently at NEMA this morning, liaising with the wider response team.
2. As of 25 Oct morning NEMA update, two tasks NEMA 241001 and NEMA 241002 for NZDF to undertake currently being planned through and detailed at Para 5.
3. Two further tasks being scoped. One potentially can be undertaken by commercial means. The other is request for Burnham LERG to support Clutha.

Likely Mission

4. HQJFNZ is to facilitate HADR support to NCC response to national weather events IVO Southland and Clutha regions NZ, on command, IOT support local State of Emergency efforts.

Execution

5. Tasks.
 - a. OGALO s. 6(a) maintain liaison with NCC and HQ JFNZ.
 - b. NEMA Tasks 1&2: NZDF to facilitate movement by C-130 J of personnel (NEMA 241001) and portable generators (NEMA 241002) for cell towers from Base Whenuapai to APOD of Invercargill. Expected ETD Whenuapai 251300OCT(M). s. 6(a) and Air Movements have this task in hand.
 - c. NEMA Task 3: Burnham LERG to mobilise and deploy to Clutha to support and enhance the at-capacity local emergency response teams (coordinate with OGALO for specifics – contact details below)
 - d. NEMA Task 4: BPT move equipment and stores into Clutha region for TELCO and essential services restoration. This task is not mature enough to accept by NZDF. OGALO is working with NEMA on this task as sits more in commercial response option and details of what and where are not fully developed. 1Bde (likely 3CSSB) to coordinate with OGALO on known details in case commercial options unavailable and NZDF support may be required.

Coordinating Instructions

6. Locations.

- a. Northern APOD: Whenuapai (Alt: Ohakea)
- b. Southern APOD: Primary: Invercargill, Alt: Dunedin, Alt: Christchurch

7. Timings:

- a. C-130(J) Task ETD Whenuapai 251300OCT(M)
- b. LERG – Activate, mobilise and deploy on receipt and through coordination with OGALO.

Logistics and Admin

8. Transport.

- a. Air. C-130J out of Whenuapai.
- b. Land. Road move in South Island.

Command and Control

9. POCs:

s. 6(a)



s. 6(a)

J7 Director Joint Readiness
Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand

s. 6(a)



Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 6(a)

Sent: Friday, 24 October 2025 3:56 pm

To: s. 6(a)

Subject: FW: Warning Order. Support to NEMA request.

PSB

s. 6(a)

Joint Effects Manager, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)



<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

From: s. 6(a)

Sent: Friday, 24 October 2025 3:49 p.m.

To: s. 6(a)

Cc: s. 6(a)

Subject: Warning Order. Support to NEMA request.

Good afternoon all,

Warning Order OP AWHINA

Situation

1. Following recent weather events impacting infrastructure nation-wide NEMA has established the National Coordination Centre (NCC). At approximately 241400OCT(M) HQJFNZ was requested to send an OGALO to advise scoping NZDF support to continued localised states of emergencies.
2. The specific request stated from NEMA is the movement of additional generators and civil emergency personnel to be moved from North Island locations to the Southland area.
3. At approximately 241445OCT(M) the HQJFNZ OGALO departed HQJFNZ to support NEMA planning.

Likely Mission

4. HQJFNZ is to facilitate HADR stores and personnel NCC response to national weather events IVO Southland, NZ, on command, IOT

Execution

5. Tasks.
 - a. OGALO s. 6(a) maintain liaison with NCC and HQJFNZ.
 - b. BPT facilitate movement of generator(s) from Northern RNZAF Bases to a Southland APOD.
 - c. BPT support ground transport from southern APOD.

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7. Timings. NB 25 0800 OCT.

Logistics and Admin

8. Transport.
 - a. Air. Likely C-130J out of Whenuapai.
 - b. Land. Likely commercial to northern APOD.

Command and Control

9. POCs:

s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)

Joint Effects Manager, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

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From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Saturday, 25 October 2025 3:24 p.m.
To: s. 6(a)
Cc:
Subject: FW: 251500 Oct AWHINA Southland Update
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Duty Folks (and s. 6(a)) – for your SA of the AWHINA Southland situation.

Great work by all involved thus far – received very well by COMJ, VCDF and respective ministers.

Duty J1 has his own dramas with overseas mission issues.

Hope you are all well?

D

s. 6(a)

J7 Director Joint Readiness
Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand

s. 6(a)

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From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Saturday, 25 October 2025 3:17 pm
To: Krushka, Rob, MAJGEN s. 6(a); s. 6(a); Clayton, Brett, GPCAPT s. 6(a); Bassingthwaighte, Mick, BRIG s. 6(a); HQJFNZ Joint Watch Centre s. 6(a); Eden, Sue <Susan.Eden@nzdf.mil.nz>; Scott, Andy, AIRCDRE s. 6(a); Dyhrberg, Jason, BRIG s. 6(a); Hall, Tracy <Tracy.Hall@nzdf.mil.nz>; Shearer, Robert, GPCAPT s. 6(a); s. 9(2)(a); van Welie, Michael, COL s. 6(a); Arndell, Shane, CDRE s. 6(a)
Cc: s. 6(a)

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s. 6(a)

Subject: 251500 Oct AWHINA Southland Update

Kia Ora Sir, All;

Good work underway in the response thus far, with NZDF doing the mahi where appropriate.

Situational Update from OGALO s. 6(a) in NEMA as at 251500 Oct:

Cascading utility service impacts in many regions, with widespread power, telecoms and road outages across Southland & Otago, & to a lesser extent in Canterbury, Tararua & the Wairarapa. Utilities surging crew and resources into affected regions and beginning restoration of priority sites. Power outage affecting telecommunications and water sectors. State of Emergency (SoE) in place for Southland Region (due to power impacts), Kaikōura (fire related), Clutha District (due extensive weather damage and power outages). ODESC activated due to prolonged power outages in South Island.

Tasks:

- NEMA Tasks 1&2: NZDF to facilitate movement by C-130 J of personnel (NEMA 241001) and portable generators (NEMA 241002) for cell towers from Base Whenuapai to APOD of Invercargill. Underway, Dep Whenuapai 251340 OCT with 14 pax and 150Kgs (5 units) of generators. ETA Invercargill 251618 OCT.
- NEMA Task 3: Burnham LERG to mobilise and deploy to Clutha to support and enhance the at-capacity local emergency response teams.
 - 2/4Btn Cadre in Balclutha has conducted requirements assessment and requested follow-up through Burnham LERG OIC which will move to effect best support in reasonable time.
 - LERG OIC now in contact with local Clutha Civil Defence (CD) IC and a request has been made to enhance limited CD awareness in three rural locations with intermittent communications.
 - Plan is to dispatch from Burnham 3 x vehicle packets each with SNCO + Officer (pers with prior AWHINA experience) and satphones to support a local needs assessment:
 - ETD Burnham 251600 Oct
 - ETA Balclutha 252200 Oct
 - Pers will overnight and then conduct assessment from 26 Oct (tomorrow).
- NEMA Task 4: BPT move equipment and stores into Clutha region for TELCO and essential services restoration. NEMA requested support for power supplies at dairy and infrastructure locations. Task referred to NEMA to explore commercial options (Mainfreight for example is coming back online) first. OGALO additionally liaising with FENZ on large generator locations for potential future task to Air move in coming days depending on need, source location and dispersal around the country.
 - OGALO continues to work with NEMA on details.

Assessment:

NEMA will continue to request NZDF support to provide movement effects IOT relieve power supply issues in affected areas.

FUOPS:

NEMA is tracking a second severe weather event in Tasman Sea, likely to make landfall Monday 27 Oct on West Coast, central South Island. Assessed as likely to prolong SoE in South Island and likely NZDF will be requested to provide enduring support to NEMA response as the week progressed beyond Labour Day.

Ops CDR Comment:

Liaising with SCE Branch throughout, with feedback from Acting AC SCE indicating that VCDF has kept MINDEF and MIN Mitchell informed, with both appreciative of NZDF support thus far. Expect more requests to continue as NEMA will want to be best prepared for the potential weather impacts from Labour Day by getting ahead of known

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problems and issues in the next 36 hours. OGALO doing sterling work competing with multiple requests for support, and working in the OGA space well (BZ Jules). Reserve OGALO on standby depending on need.

Will update all briefly on confirmation of C-130 arrival in Invercargill.

Brief Media Statement (follows below) released by Duty DPA in consultation with J3 and SCE in response to media queries:

This afternoon (Sat 25 October), the New Zealand Defence Force deployed a C-130J Hercules from Base Auckland in Whenuapai to Invercargill, to facilitate the movement of NEMA Emergency Management Assistance Team (EMAT) and Civil Defence Emergency Management Group personnel and portable generators to support emergency response efforts to national weather events in the Southland and Clutha regions.

Stock images of the C-130J Hercules can be found in the Media Dropbox: www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdfmedia

Aye,

s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)

J7 Director Joint Readiness
Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand

s. 6(a)

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www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Saturday, 25 October 2025 11:11 a.m.
To: s. 6(a)
HQJFNZ Joint Watch Centre
Cc: s. 6(a)
Subject: Re: AWHINA Southland/Clutha: Support to NEMA request - 1100 25 Oct UPDATE

Ack from 1(nz) Bde

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 10:58:34 AM
To: s. 6(a)
HQJFNZ Joint Watch Centre
Cc: s. 6(a)
Subject: AWHINA Southland/Clutha: Support to NEMA request - 1100 25 Oct UPDATE

Morena All;
An update since MAJ Jacobsen sent this yesterday.
1Bde please ack on receipt – for LERG confirmation.
Watchkeeper please phone 1Bde Ops to inform tasking.
Situation - UPDATE

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2. As of 25 Oct morning NEMA update, two tasks NEMA 241001 and NEMA 241002 for NZDF to undertake currently being planned through and detailed at Para 5.
3. Two further tasks being scoped. One potentially can be undertaken by commercial means. The other is request for Burnham LERG to support Clutha.

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 - a. OGALO s. 6(a) maintain liaison with NCC and HQ JFNZ.

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- b. NEMA Tasks 1&2: NZDF to facilitate movement by C-130 J of personnel (NEMA 241001) and portable generators (NEMA 241002) for cell towers from Base Whenuapai to APOD of Invercargill. Expected ETD Whenuapai 251300OCT(M). DACCSO and Air Movements have this task in hand.
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- 6. Locations.
 - e. Northern APOD: Whenuapai (Alt: Ohakea)
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- 7. Timings:
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Logistics and Admin

- 8. Transport.
 - i. Air. C-130J out of Whenuapai.
 - j. Land. Road move in South Island.

Command and Control

9. POCs:

- k. OGALO. s. 6(a)
- l. s. 6(a)
- m. [Redacted]
- n. [Redacted]
- o. [Redacted]

s. 6(a)

J7 Director Joint Readiness
Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand

s. 6(a)

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www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 6(a)

Sent: Friday, 24 October 2025 3:56 pm

To: s. 6(a)

Subject: FW: Warning Order. Support to NEMA request.

PSB

s. 6(a)

Joint Effects Manager, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

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Sent: Friday, 24 October 2025 3:49 p.m.

To: s. 6(a)

Cc:

Subject: Warning Order. Support to NEMA request.

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2. The specific request stated from NEMA is the movement of additional generators and civil emergency personnel to be moved from North Island locations to the Southland area.
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Logistics and Admin

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 - g. Land. Likely commercial to northern APOD.

Command and Control

9. POCs:

h. OGALO. s. 6(a)

i. s. 6(a)

j.

k.

l.

s. 6(a)

Joint Effects Manager, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Friday, 24 October 2025 3:49 p.m.
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1 Bde HQ Ops
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Command and Control

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 - a. OGALOs. 6(a)
 - b. s. 6(a)
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

s. 6(a)

Joint Effects Manager, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

MASTER AIR WAYBILL PALLET



Manifest Number: AK/C/2719	Departure Site: WHENUAPAI	Destination DZ / LZ: INVERGARGILL	
A/C or Vessel Type: C130J	A/C or Vessel Configuration: PCF	Flt/Voyage No.: NAT461	Flt/Voyage Date: 25/10/2025
Chalk No.: -	Operation/Task: OP AWHINA NE	Mode of delivery: AIR LANDED	

No.	House Waybill Number or Case Number	Number of Pieces	Consignee	Weight	Priority	Container Type - Description of Contents
1	ADD	1	AKL AMS	290	NP	Pallet
2	4000251055	3	ONE NZ	270	1	Big Generator *DAC*
3	4000251055	2	ONE NZ	85	1	Small Generator *DAC*
4						
5						
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Total Number of Pieces:	6	Total Weight:	1270	Dangerous Goods?	YES	
Unit Preparing AKL AIRMOVEMENTS			Chains		Weight of Restraining Equipment	47 LBS
			Straps	6		
Prepared by (Name, Grade, or Title) CPL s. 9(2)(a)			Tensioners		Administrative Weight	1317 LBS
			Top Nets	1		
Signature of Loading Supervisor			Side Nets		Scale Weight 1290 LBS	
			Pallets			
All Items Listed have been Loaded			Pallet/Container S/N:		977266	
Signature			Name		Location	
Date			Date		Date	

MASTER AIR WAYBILL FREIGHT



PAGE ONE OF ONE

*Delete all that do not apply

Manifest Number: AK/C/2725	Departure Site: WHENUAPAI	Destination DZ / LZ: INVERCARGILL	
A/C or Vessel Type: C130	A/C or Vessel Configuration: PCF	Flt/Voyage No.: NAT474	Flt/Voyage Date: 26/10/2025
Chalk No.:	Operation/Task: OP AWHINA #2	Mode of delivery: AIR LANDED	

	House Waybill Number or Case Number	Number of Pieces	Consignee	Weight	Priority	Container Type - Description of Contents
1	4000251056	1	RRT LEAD NEMA	6660	1	GENERATOR TRAILER REGO #262Y8 *DG*
2	4000251056	1	RRT LEAD NEMA	6020	1	GENERATOR TRAILER REGO #Z243M *DG*
3	4000251056	1	RRT LEAD NEMA	6230	1	GENERATOR TRAILER REGO #2F483 *DG*
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Total Number of Pieces:	3	Total Weight:	18910	Dangerous Goods?	YES
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Unit Preparing AIR MOVEMENTS AUCKLAND	Chains		Weight of Restraining Equipment	0 LBS
	Straps			
	Tensioners			
	Top Nets		Administrative Weight	18910 LBS
	Side Nets			
Pallets				

Prepared by (Name, Grade, or Title) CPL s. 9(2)(a)	Date 26/10/2025
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Scale Weight	18910	LBS
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All Items Listed have been Loaded		Pallet/Container S/N:	ROLLING STOCK
Signature of Loading Supervisor	Date		

All items received			
Signature	Name	Location	Date