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OIA-2026-5691

20th April 2026

[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 2 March 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) information concerning Royal New Zealand Air Force No. 62 Squadron. The various parts of your request are addressed below.

1. *The total amount spent on the No.62 squadron since July 2025.*

From 1 July 2025 to 28 February 2026, the total amount spent on No. 62 Squadron was \$1.14 million.

2. *Projects and tasks completed by the No.62 squadron since July 2025.*

There have been no projects formally directed to No. 62 Squadron. The Squadron has supported 10 operations and been involved in seven exercises since July 2025.

3. *Any documents to the Chief of the Air Force mentioning the No.62 squadron since July 2025.*

Enclosed are copies of relevant documents. Where indicated, the following information is withheld: structure and capability information of the unit in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA; staff information in accordance with section 9(2)(k) of the OIA to avoid its malicious or inappropriate use, such as phishing, scams or unsolicited advertising.

Annex A of the Air Force Order establishing the Space Operations Squadron (62 SQN) and a position description for a role within No. 62 Squadron are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA as they provide detailed information on the structure and capability of the unit.

The following extracts concerning No. 62 Squadron are from documents addressed to the Chief of Air Force.

New Zealand National Update – Combined Space Operations Initiative

In June 2025 New Zealand welcomed a visit from General Stephen Whiting, Commander of the United States Space Command. During his visit to New Zealand, General Whiting toured No. 62 Squadron and met the Minister of Defence, the Hon. Judith Collins KC as well as senior officials.

On 4 July 2025 the RNZAF reactivated No. 62 Squadron as a space squadron. The squadron's previous incarnation was as a radar squadron during the Second World War.

The reactivation of the squadron formalises and normalises the NZDF's space activity within its command structure. The squadron is located at RNZAF Base Auckland who undertake New Zealand's participation in both JCO and MNF-OOD.



Figure 1 Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Darryn Webb and the Minister of Defence, the Hon. Judith Collins KC at the reactivation of RNZAF No. 62 Squadron

Talking Points for the Chief of Air Force – United Kingdom visit 25 July 2025

- *In July 2025, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) established its first dedicated military space unit, No. 62 Squadron, focused on space situational awareness, supporting satellite communications, and safeguarding national interests.*
- *Space-based technologies are now critical for navigation, disaster response, intelligence, and overall national security. The new 62 SQN enhances both independent capability and international defence cooperation, particularly with Five Eyes partners.*

No. 62 Space Operations Squadron

- *Reactivated 4 July 25.*
- *Space Support to Operations*
- *Space Domain Awareness (SDA) as contribution to collective space security*
 - o *JCO Pacific Lead*
 - o *DST / NZDF Optical Space Surveillance Sensor development*
- *Home of NZ Space Operations Centre (NZ SpOC)*
 - o *NZ Node to coordinate and cohere space effects,*
 - o *Request space support from partners*
 - o *Contribute SDA*
- *NZDF showed leadership and strength in training Space Operators – trained over 50 people across seven nations (OP TIEKE). NZ, Australia, US, Japan, Korea, Poland, Ukraine.*
- *Early notification of threats – such as space debris, irresponsible behaviour, satellite manoeuvres or space weather events.*
- *Notifications of events go to contributing nations, commercial satellite operators and other users of space services.*
- *Notifications enable decision making to take action to avoid disruption to services or potential collisions.*

Briefing Notes for Chief of Air Force – August 202562 SQN Update

- RNZAF reactivated No. 62 Squadron on 1 July to conduct space activities.
- Ceremony on 4 July included speech by Minister Collins.
- Positive media interest, including TVNZ report on Q&A program, Sunday 13 July, by Whena Owen. Searchable on YouTube for those interested.
- 62 SQN will fulfil New Zealand's existing space activities, including MNF-OOD, Joint Commercial Operations (JCO), and Combined Space Operations (CSpO).
- Founding and initial role is Space Surveillance, with growth in capacity and additional capability (roles/functions) aligned to the Defence Capability Plan (DCP).

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. Air Force Order (Temporary) 08/2025
2. Chief of Air Force presentation at Australian Air and Space Conference 2026