



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

OIA-2026-5943

1/12 September 2026

[REDACTED]

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I refer to your email of 18 August 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

1. *Details of any use of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) aircraft (fixed-wing or rotary) by the Rt Hon Chris Hipkins while he held the office of Prime Minister, specifically covering the period 25 January 2023 to 27 November 2023.*
2. *For each such flight (if any), please provide:*
 - *Date(s) of the flight(s)*
 - *Aircraft type*
 - *Origin and destination*
 - *Purpose of the travel (official, personal, or other, as recorded)*
 - *Number of passengers (if held) and any accompanying officials or staff*
3. *Confirmation of whether any NZDF aircraft were used by Mr Hipkins in connection with political party events, fundraisers, or campaign-related activities during the above period (or confirmation that no such records exist).*

The enclosed table shows flights taken using New Zealand Defence force (NZDF) aircraft where the Rt Hon Chris Hipkins Was the primary passenger, over the specified period, with dates, aircraft type, routes, passengers, and reason for the flight if recorded.

The government sets outputs for agencies. The NZDF output framework was agreed and directed by Cabinet (CAB Min (14) 9/5). Output 4.4.4 concerns the provision of air, land, and sea transport for members of the Government and Guests of State to support the Government's internal and external transportation requirements.

Requests received by the NZDF for the use of its aircraft typically only include the preferred dates and times, the point-of-departure and point-of-arrival to facilitate planning. Requests often, but do not always, include the nature of the visit at the destination. There is no NZDF document determining the criteria by which a tasking is determined to be connected to political party events, fundraisers, or campaign-related activities.

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. Flights taken by the Rt Hon Chris Hipkins

Flights taken by the Rt Hon Chris Hipkins

Dates	Aircraft	Flight Route	Passengers	Event description
28-Jan-23	C-130H	Wellington-Whenuapai-Wellington	1x Minister, 7x PMO (Prime Minister's Office), 6x NEMA, 6x Media	-
28-Jan-23	SH-2G	Whenuapai-Whenuapai	1x Minister, 3x PMO, 1x Media	-
7-Feb-23	B757	Whenuapai-Wellington-Cairns-Wellington	1x Minister, 4x PMO, 1x NZ Police, 1x Australia HI Commission, 4x MFAT, 10x Media	-
16-Feb-23	KA350	Wellington-Gisborne-Wellington	1x Minister, 6x Passengers	-
17-Feb-23	KA350	Wellington-Napier-Wellington	1x Minister, 6x Passengers	-
23 -24 Feb 23	B757	Wellington-Nadi-Wellington	2x Ministers, 3x PMO, 1x OMFA (Office Minister Foreign Affairs), 1x DPMC, 7x MFAT, 16x Media	Pacific Island Forum
22-Apr-23	B757	Wellington-Brisbane-wellington	1x Ministers 4x PMO, 1x DPMC, 2x DPS, 6x MFAT, 1x Australia High Commission, 4x Maori Leaders, 2x NZTE, 15x Business, 1x NEMA, 15x Media	Australia Trade Mission
12-May-23	KA350	Wellington-Westport-Wellington	1x Minister, 4x PMO, 2x NZ Police	-
21-23 May 23	B757	Whenuapai-Apia-Whenuapai	1x Minister, 4x PMO, 5x DPS, 8x MFAT, 15x Media	-
25-May-23	KA350	Napier-Te Araroa	1x Minister, 1x PMO, 1x NZ Police	-
24 Jun-02 Jul 23	B757	Whenuapai-Cairns-Philippines-Beijing-Shanghai-Darwin-Wellington	1x Minister, 9x PMO, 1x DPS, 1x DPMC, 8x MFAT, 1x NZTE CEO, 26x Business, 19x Media, 16x Kapahaka, 2x NZTE, 5x China Protocol (Beijing to Shanghai), 7x MFAT Beijing (Beijing to Shanghai)	China Trade Mission
24-Jun-23	B757	Whenuapai-Cairns-Philippines-Darwin-Whenuapai		China Trade Mission
20-Jul-23	KA350	Wellington-Whenuapai	1x Minister, 7x Passengers	-
27-Jul-23	KA350	Wellington-Christchurch	1x Minister, 2x PMO	-
7-10 Nov 2023	B757	Wellington-Rarotonga-Wellington	1x Minister, 7x PIF Delegation, 12x Media,	Pacific Island Forum
7-Nov-23	C-130H	Whenuapai-Wellington	Backup	Pacific Island Forum