



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

OIA-2023-4675

19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [pg.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@pg.canterbury.ac.nz)

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 22 March 2023 requesting information about New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) activity in Antarctica.

*I would like to please request a list of all NZDF personnel who have completed a master's or PhD in Antarctic politics or law.*

*I would also like to request the total cost that NZDF spends on Antarctic activity, and the number of days NZDF spends sailing to and from Antarctica.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

A search of the relevant NZDF database has not identified any service personnel or civilian staff who have reported that they hold a *master's or PhD in Antarctic politics or law*. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA. Some service personnel or staff may hold such qualifications, but this information has not been recorded.

In February 2022, HMNZS Aotearoa was the first Royal New Zealand Navy ship in over 50 years to resupply facilities in Antarctica. The trip took 26 days, including transit to and from Devonport Naval Base to Port Lyttleton. The ship departed Port Lyttleton on 3 February 2022 and its passage to Antarctica took eight days. The ship departed Antarctica on 14 February 2022, arriving back in Port Lyttleton on 22 February 2022. Further information about NZDF activity in Antarctica is available in the NZDF Annual report for 2021/22 which is available on the NZDF website: [www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz).

The below table shows the total NZDF expenditure on Activities in Antarctica from 1 January 2022 to 28 February 2023.

Service	Details	Expenditure (\$NZ)
Air Force	C-130 Flights	722,450.85
	B757 Flights	889,199.59
Navy	Total based on average rate per day	2,400,424.00
Joint and other	Total costs excluding recoveries <sup>1</sup>	995,339.37
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,007,413.80</b>

<sup>1</sup> Recovery of costs invoiced to Antarctica New Zealand

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.

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

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF