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OIA-2023-4684

19 May 2023

[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 30 March 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA),

*How many contractors are currently employed?*

*How many of those are business analysts or project managers?*

*How many have been employed longer than 6 months?*

*How many have been employed longer than one year?*

*How many current contractors held previous contracts with NZDF?*

*How many contractors are being paid higher than the payband for the comparable full-time employed position?-*

I apologise for the length of time it has taken to provide this decision on your request.

Information regarding contractors employed by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is reported to the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Select Committee (FADTC)<sup>1</sup> for the Estimates and Annual Review of Vote Defence Force. A contractor is an individual hired on a short-term basis to fill a temporary NZDF military or civilian vacancy. They are employed to work, often on NZDF premises, to fill a deficiency or otherwise perform work that the NZDF could internally resource, but only if suitable personnel/staff were available. Unlike a consultant, whose output is generally in the form of advice, a report and/or a list of recommendations, a contractor performs the actual work to effect a change or produce a particular output. A contractor will have a written contract with the NZDF to perform a specific task or output.

A substantial amount of work is required to produce information for those contractors currently employed by the New Zealand Defence Force. This is still underway in preparation for FADTC and is unlikely to be finalised before the Annual Review hearing near the end of this year. Therefore, your request for information about contractors currently employed is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA given the substantial research and collation effort required. As noted above, however, this information will be publicly available once it has been compiled.

<sup>1</sup> [www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/foreign-affairs-defence-and-trade/](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/foreign-affairs-defence-and-trade/)

Notwithstanding the inability to produce the current figures you have requested in the time available, the most recent figures are available in response to question 68 of the Annual Review<sup>2</sup>. For the 2021/22 financial year, there were a total of 66 contractors employed, made up of 47 agencies with contractors employed on behalf of NZDF and 19 individual contractors directly contracted to NZDF. A total of four contractors have been employed for up to 12 months and 62 contractors have been employed for longer than one year.

Information on contractors who may have held previous contracts with the NZDF is not centrally recorded. Individual contracts and employment records would need to be researched in order to collate the requested information. As a result, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA.

A comparison of contractors' pay to comparable full time employment position is not undertaken by the NZDF. Therefore, this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

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.

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

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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<sup>2</sup> [www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCFD\\_EVI\\_129658\\_FD1719/9553d6460aa692f5b122458a6117d091c4b8ddc](http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCFD_EVI_129658_FD1719/9553d6460aa692f5b122458a6117d091c4b8ddc)