



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

OIA-2024-4958

27 March 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 12 March 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

- 1. In the Briefing to the incoming Minister of Defence - Judith Collins it was stated that 3 frigates were in a state of care and custody, I am requesting the names of these frigates and how long they have been in a state of care and custody and when they'll be in operation again.*

The Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) has two frigates: HMNZS Te Kaha and HMNZS Te Mana. Neither of these frigates have been in 'care and custody'.

The Briefing to the Incoming Minister referred to three RNZN ships as being in care and custody: HMNZS Wellington and HMNZS Otago (Offshore Patrol Vessels); and HMNZS Hawea (Inshore Patrol Vessel). HMNZS Wellington was put into care and custody from September 2022, HMNZS Otago was put into care and custody in May 2022, and HMNZS Hawea was put into care and custody in April 2022.

- 2. The Defence Chief stated to Parliament in front of a select committee on the 15th of February 2024 that 2 C130 Hercules were grounded because of delaying maintenance to save money, I am requesting the registration for these aircraft. (I.E (NZ70##)*
- 3. How many of our C130 Hercules have been retired and what are their registration?*

Two C-130H Hercules have been retired, the registration numbers of these aircraft are NZ7003 and NZ7004. At the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee on 15 February 2024, the Chief of Defence Force noted that there were two reasons for these aircraft being retired. Firstly, the effort to bring into service the new C-130J-30 Super Hercules. This includes personnel transferring from maintaining the old retiring aircraft type, to training and preparation for the arrival of the new aircraft type. Secondly, the increasing cost of maintaining the nearly 60 year old C-130H aircraft. For example, it would be a poor use of funding to invest in major planned maintenance for an aircraft that will soon be retired from service and replaced as there will be little, if any, return on that investment.

4. *How many Hercules do we currently have in operation and are ready for deployment within New Zealand or Overseas as of 12/03/2024?*

As at 12 March 2024, three C-130H Hercules were in operation, two of which were ready for deployment within New Zealand or overseas.

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

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF