



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

OIA-2024-4995

9 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 18 April 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

In regards to Operation MOA:

- 1. Over what dates was/is this being conducted?*
- 2. Where was/is this conducted?*
- 3. Which units were/are deployed?*
- 4. Are personnel deployed eligible to receive medals for this deployment? If not, why not?*
- 5. What were/are the aims of the NZDF in this deployment?*
- 6. With what weapons were/are personnel deployed on Operation MOA equipped?*

Operation Moa was conducted from 17 March to 27 April 2024 within the sovereign land mass and territorial waters of the Solomon Islands. The aim was for the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to support the democratic elections to the Solomon Islands through logistical support to the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

Information about which units were deployed is withheld in accordance with section 6(d) of the OIA, and information about the equipment issued to personnel deployed to Operation Moa is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA. No decision has been made on medallic recognition for the deployment.

In regards to personnel attending the Pacific Games, in the Solomon Islands:

- 1. Is this considered an operational deployment?*
- 2. Are personnel participating in the Games eligible to receive medals? If so, which medals, and on what basis?*
- 3. Are personnel providing security support to the Games eligible to receive medals? If so, which medals, and on what basis?*
- 4. From January 2010 to present, how much has the NZDF spent per calendar year on providing (purchasing, engraving, etc) medals? Please break down costs by calendar year.*

The NZDF deployment to support the 2023 Pacific Games is considered an operational deployment. Personnel participating in the Games are not eligible to receive medals.

The deployment to support the Pacific Games was conducted under the Operation Solomon Islands Assistance (Op SIAST) mandate approved by the New Zealand Government in December 2021. Therefore, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria, NZDF personnel deployed on Op SIAST (including those in direct support) who accumulate 30 days or more service will qualify for the New Zealand General Service Medal 2002 (Solomon Islands) and will qualify after seven days for the New Zealand Operational Service Medal (if not previously awarded).

The NZDF did not record information specifically related to medal mounting costs prior to 2017. The table below shows the total expenditure related to medals per calendar year from 2017.

Year	Total expenditure \$
2017	421,682
2018	456,598
2019	582,036
2020	383,498
2021	334,766
2022	365,838
2023	557,286

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