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OIA-2024-5030

26 July 2024

[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 13 May 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information about a New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) flight to the Chatham Islands in early May.

Who are the officials (non NZDF staff) who went (Agency/Department(s), Job titles).

Who were the NZDF staff who went (Job titles, salary bands).

What is the total number of people who went? (Broken down by NZDF staff vs non-NZDF staff)

What was the purpose of the trip?

Why were so many people needed for the trip?

What assessment/analysis was made in relation to flying commercial instead (e.g., air chathams) or chartering a plane?

Why was it necessary for NZDF to be involved

What was the total cost of the trip in terms of travel? Please break down this cost as much as possible (e.g., Auckland to Wellington cost \$XX,XXX, Wellington to Chathams cost \$XX,XXX, Chathams to Wellington cost \$XX,XXX, Wellington to Auckland cost \$XX,XXX)

If not covered in the above answer, please give the flight itinerary for the trip (including the return). Essentially, where was the plane(s) to begin and what stops were made on the way

The type and number of each aircraft used.

I apologise for delay in providing this response. The NZDF operated a flight to the Chatham Islands on 7 May 2024 at the request of the Department of Internal Affairs under Output 4.4 – Military assistance to Civil Authorities in Non-Emergency Situations. Information concerning Output 4.4 is publicly available in the Annual Report on the NZDF Website¹. The purpose of the flight was to transport attendees of the Chatham Islands Stakeholder's Forum and was a 2.5 hour direct flight from Wellington International Airport to Tuuta Airport by a C-130H Hercules aircraft. The short term operating rate² of an NZDF Hercules is \$8,330 per flying hour.

¹ <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/NZDF-Annual-Report-2023.PDF>

² This rate includes marginal personnel costs, fuel, airport charges and other associated costs in relation to the flight. Short-term tasking rates do not include workshop maintenance, personnel salaries, depreciation and capital charge.

There were 37 passengers on board the flight, and 11 NZDF personnel. The names of passengers on board the flight who are public officials are below, along with their agency. The job titles of the officials was not recorded by the NZDF. The names of the remaining passengers are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect their privacy.

Flight NZH248 Wellington to Chatham Islands 7 May 2024

Passenger	Agency
Ben Clark	Te Kawa Mataaho
Fiona Cockerill-Ghanem	Chatham Islands Council
Daren Courtnage	Chatham Islands Council
Richard Cross	NZ Transport Agency
Brian Dawson	Chatham Islands Council
Keri Day	Chatham Islands Council
Rochelle Faimalo	National Emergency Management Agency
Julie Anne Genter	Member of Parliament for Rongotai
Carolyn Guy	Ministry for Primary industries
Chiquita Hansen	Health New Zealand
Raphael Hilbron	Chatham Islands Council
Liam Hodgetts	Chatham Islands Council
Nathan McNally	Chatham Islands Council
Kirsten Norquay	Chatham Islands Council
Helena Patuwai	Te Tari Taiwhenua
Gregory Pollock	Chatham Islands Council
John Price	New Zealand Police
Rachel Tutty	Chatham Islands Council
Cornelia Vervoorn	Chatham Islands Council
Wendy Wright	National Emergency Management Agency

The NZDF crew on board ranged in rank from Corporal to Flight Lieutenant and comprised of a Pilot, a Co-pilot, an Air Warfare Officer, a Flight Engineer, two Air Load Masters, two maintenance personnel, and two Air Load Team members. The current remuneration range for the ranks concerned is approximately \$88,000 to \$120,000.

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