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OIA-2024-5057

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[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your emails of 17 June 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about the following New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF's) aircraft: *P8-A Poseidon*; *A109 Light Utility Helicopter*; *Boeing 757-2K2*; *C-130H(NZ) Hercules*; *NH90 Helicopter*; *SH-2G(I) Seasprite Helicopter*; and, *T-6C Texan 2*. Particularly you requested the *average flying cost per hour* for these aircraft, as well as:

- *All documentation, aide memoire and reports related to the annual maintenance costs of each of the aircraft listed above*
- *All documentation, aide memoire and reports related to the annual running costs of each of the aircraft listed above*
- *All documentation, aide memoire and reports related to cost increases of the maintenance of each of the aircraft listed above*
- *the cost increases in annual maintenance and running costs over the past five years for each of the aircraft listed*
- *any documents over the same period of time that highlighted any concerns about the operating cost of aircraft*
- *any documents over that time period that state it would be financially unsustainable to continue running an aircraft*

I apologise for the considerable time it has taken to provide this response.

Your requests for *all documentation, aide memoire and reports related to the annual maintenance costs of each of the aircraft listed above...all documentation, aide memoire and reports related to the annual running costs of each of the aircraft listed above and all documentation, aide memoire and reports related to cost increases of the maintenance of each of the aircraft listed above* are declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as they cover an extensive amount of information requiring a substantial collation and research effort.

To keep NZDF aircraft operational for all tasks, scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) is undertaken. The following table provides the approximate annual costs of MRO for NZDF-maintained aircraft for the past five calendar years.

Aircraft	2019 (\$M)	2020 (\$M)	2021 (\$M)	2022 (\$M)	2023 (\$M)
NH90	19.305	20.277	16.262	12.563	18.776
A109	2.650	1.810	2.272	1.788	2.619
SH-2G(I) Seasprite	12.090	14.135	18.641	15.227	16.601
P-8 Poseidon	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.982
C-130H Hercules	18.111	21.340	21.209	25.536	16.285
Boeing B757	9.379	6.833	13.205	31.386	11.949

With respect to the T-6C aircraft, the sustainment model is a turnkey contract which is charged monthly. The charges include, but are not limited to, management overheads, maintenance, and defect rectification. A breakdown for only the MRO component is not available.

Your request for the running costs of these aircraft is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA for the reason explained above.

For your information, however, the below tables provide available short-term tasking costs per flying hour for the requested NZDF aircraft for Financial Year 2021 and Financial Year 2024. Short-term tasking costs include marginal personnel costs, fuel, airport charges and other associated costs in relation to the flight. They do not include workshop maintenance, personnel salaries, depreciation and capital charge.

FY 2021

Aircraft	Hourly Rate (\$)
NH90	1,190
A109	510
SH-2G(I) Seasprite	1,600
P-8 Poseidon	N/A
C-130H Hercules	4,340
Boeing B757	7,950
T-6C Texan II	400

FY2024

Aircraft	Hourly Rate (\$)
NH90	4,500
A109	1,440
SH-2G(I) Seasprite	5,520
P-8 Poseidon	7,970
C-130H Hercules	7,330
Boeing B757	14,030
T-6C Texan II	610

With respect to your requests for *any documents over the same period of time that highlighted any concerns about the operating cost of aircraft and any documents over that time period that state it would be financially unsustainable to continue running an aircraft*, no relevant information could be found. These parts of your request are therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

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