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

OIA-2024-5095.1

10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 21 October 2024 requesting further information to the response provided to you on 18 October 2024 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA),

*- Can I confirm NZDF went with the "deliver and decline" course of action?*

Deliver and Decline is the agreed strategy. This is because the New Zealand Defence Force went into FY 24/25 with \$139 million less operating expenditure than the previous year as a result of cost pressures, such as the rising price of fuel, and power.

*- What were the "significant austerity measures" taken?*

Details of these are provided in Enclosure two of the 18 October 2024 response. The decision to withhold information remains the same.

*- How does this \$8m figure compare to the later \$30m gap made public in July, was this an earlier estimate?*

The residual risk figure of approximately \$8 million referred to in Enclosure one of the same response, is included in the \$30 million gap.

*Regarding the presentation to EXCO:*

*- What is the "Special Org Committee" which was presenting to the Executive Committee in June?*

The "Special Org Committee" is also referred to as the Budget Sub-Committee (BSC) within the documents.

*- The presentation document refers to "bilat meetings" - what bilat meetings were these? (w/ Australians?)*

The "bilat meetings" does not refer to meetings between countries. The reference is to meetings between the Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance.

*- What does it mean to have DCP readiness further delayed?*

This refers to the status of the Defence Capability Plan (DCP).

*- Were any of the redacted "Austerity options" taken?*

Yes. Like many government agencies, the NZDF has faced cost pressures. The NZDF has undergone a rapid reprioritisation of its budget to ensure the focus is on core military tasks.

*Final document:*

*- There are seven unreacted items in the "unfunded activities" list, can I confirm these activities were unfunded?*

These currently remain under consideration as activities are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. With specific regard to ceremonial activities, the New Zealand Defence Force no longer fires 21-gun or 19-gun salutes for welcome ceremonies for visiting heads of state or heads of government. It has also reduced the size of ceremonial guards for these visits and Government House Presentation of Credentials by approximately 30%. Service magazines have been digitised from November 2024, physical copies are no longer printed.

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

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF



Headquarters  
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OIA-2024-5089.1

10 December 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 October 2024 requesting, further information to the response provided to you on 18 October 2024 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*On Enclosure 1, attached via email, can NZDF please clarify plans to reduce ceremonial funding "impacting Gallipoli" and what this actually entails, and what actual impact it will have on services in NZ and overseas?*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will reduce some minor administrative support to Gallipoli in 2025. This will not impact core NZDF ceremonial tasks as part of support to Gallipoli related events in 2025. Further detail is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs for the time being.

*Would I also be able to get more comment on the Invictus Games, and what the plan is for that, as outlined in the same document?*

A response to this part of your request was provided to you on 25 October 2024.

*In addition, can you please clarify if "The NZDF is effectively starting the 2024/25 financial year with \$139M less available funding compared with 2023/24" is still the case?*

Yes. The New Zealand Defence Force went into FY 24/25 with \$139 million less operating expenditure than the previous year as a result of cost pressures, such as the rising price of fuel, and power.

*Enclosure 4 states there was a civilian recruitment freeze. Can you please clarify the timeframes around that - including when it was put in place and when it ended?*

A pause on civilian recruitment was put into place from 29 May 2024, pending the 2024/2025 budget allocation exercise. The pause was lifted on 27 June 2024, allowing for recruiting in urgent situations. This direction remains in place and recruitment is reviewed monthly.

*The final document, Enclosure 6, shows smaller cuts that are un-redacted including gym memberships and vaccination. It also states "reduced ceremonial activities" which may have reputational risk around visiting nations. Can you please confirm how much this is meant to save, and what this would actually entail in practice? In general, regarding Enclosure 6, can you please confirm if these are proposed or finalised, and if they are just proposals, when they will be finalised?*



With respect to New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) savings, these are still being worked on as activities are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. A complete accounting is not available at this time. With specific regard to ceremonial activities, the NZDF no longer fires 21-gun or 19-gun salutes for welcome ceremonies for visiting heads of state or heads of government. It has also reduced the size of ceremonial guards for these visits and Government House Presentation of Credentials by approximately 30%. A publicly available response to another request for the costs of gun salutes from Point Jerningham<sup>1</sup> provides an indication of annual costs for these activities. The saving from digitising Service magazines, from 1 November 2024 to 30 June 2025, is approximately \$144,000 across planned postage and printing costs.

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/OIA-2024-5084-Annual-costs-for-Gun-Salutes.pdf>