

Defence House  
34 Bowen Street  
Wellington, New Zealand

P +64 (04) 496 0999  
E [info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:info@defence.govt.nz)

PO Box 12703  
Molesworth Street  
Wellington 6144, New Zealand

[www.defence.govt.nz](http://www.defence.govt.nz)



**MANATŪ KAUPAPA  
WAONGA**  
NEW ZEALAND  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

25 August 2025

## RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 5 August 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I am seeking for both FY23/24 and FY24/25 financial years, the breakdown of total spend against consultants. I am seeking the breakdown spend as follow:*

1. *Individual consultant spend (including name of consultants used or total number of consultants used) by unit/organisation within NZDF/MOD i.e. Logistics Command (Maritime), Logistics Command (Air), Logistics Command (Land), Defence Commercial Services, Defence Estate and Infrastructure, Capability Branch, MoD Air Domain, MoD Maritime Domain, MoD Land Domain*
2. *The specific project or programme under the above unit/organisation that was spent against the individual consultant and value.*
  - *Include description of work undertaken.*
  - *Outputs delivered and value for money achieved to defence.*
  - *If the consultant was approached directly by NZDF/MOD staff or through a tendered (closed or open) approach.*

On 8 August, the parts of your request relating to the work of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) were transferred to that agency. This letter responds to the elements of your request that are covered in the work of the Ministry of Defence (the Ministry).

A detailed breakdown of contractor and consultant spend is regularly produced by part of select committee's Annual Review of department performance and their Estimates Review of each Vote. This involves a significant amount of work, and details are published on the Parliament website, categorised as 'SC Evidence' for each review:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/>.

Details of the Ministry's contractors and consultants spend for the 2023/24 financial year is provided in our response to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee written questions for the 2023/24 Annual Review, available from this page on the Parliament

website: [https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/54SCFADT\\_EVI\\_be67b22b-aced-4614-2e95-08dce960f5d1\\_FADT1018/ministry-of-defence-appendices-to-written-questions-42](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/54SCFADT_EVI_be67b22b-aced-4614-2e95-08dce960f5d1_FADT1018/ministry-of-defence-appendices-to-written-questions-42).

Details of the Ministry's spend for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025 is provided in response to written questions for the 2025/26 Estimates Review, which is available from this page: [https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/54SCFADT\\_EVI\\_3194b581-4aa6-43fa-cdba-08dd9cbad1c0\\_FADT1599/minister-of-defence-vote-defence-responses-to-written](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/54SCFADT_EVI_3194b581-4aa6-43fa-cdba-08dd9cbad1c0_FADT1599/minister-of-defence-vote-defence-responses-to-written)

The Ministry has an established practice of engaging the services of external consultants, advisers and contractors where the Ministry does not possess the people or skills necessary for these activities, nor could it support full time employment of skilled staff to perform these specialised functions.

The information provided to select committee is separated into departmental and non-departmental spend, with non-departmental spend relating to the delivery of major defence capability projects by the Ministry's Capability Delivery division. The related capability project is identified in the published information, which indicates whether this relates to the Land, Maritime, Aerospace or Information domain.

Annual expenditure varies considerably depending on the number and complexity of new projects being managed and the lifecycle of each project in a given financial year. The services engaged for projects delivering major defence capabilities fall into the following categories:

- **Risk Consultants:**  
Risk consultants are engaged as required to assist the Ministry in assessing the risks associated with complex military equipment procurements. This occurs at a number of stages throughout an acquisition's life cycle. The use of independent consultants enables the potential risks to be examined objectively. The consultants also provide an independent overview of mitigation actions put in place by the Ministry.
- **Probity Consultants:**  
Probity consultants are engaged to provide independent oversight and advice on probity matters during formal procurement phase. This oversight might be provided by a specialist probity consultant or by the Project's external legal advisor.
- **Other:**  
There exists a need periodically to elicit specialist advice on engineering and technical issues, insurance, finance, project costing, quality assurance services and independent validation and verification of capability requirements or specific solutions proposed by prospective contractors.

In relation to this expenditure, the Ministry uses All-of-Government contracts where applicable, or follows the Crown procurement rules for these engagements.

Details about the Ministry's delivery and the benefits arising from its work are provided in its annual reports, which are available from its website at <https://defence.govt.nz/publications/>. This includes details of the benefits that will be delivered for each major defence capability project that is being delivered by the Ministry.

Your request as it relates to other contracting information, including covering the April–June 2025 period, is refused under section 16(2)(a) of the Act, as it would impair the efficient administration of the Ministry to produce this information in this particular format. This is in

recognition that substantive details will be collated and made publicly available in December as part of the regular process of select committee review.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

Pasanka Wickremasinghe  
**Chief Financial Officer**