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

14 September 2026

RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2026, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information relating to the Fixed High Frequency Radio Refresh (FHFRR) project:

the projects final closure report if complete or any other report that shows the status of the project, the projects actual schedule against the original forecast (planned) schedule, an explanation for any delays from the original schedule, an overview of costs against the original approved budget, and the projects risk register

The FHFRR project achieved Interim Operational Release in March of 2026 and is now at the In Service stage under the Capability Management Framework. As such, a final closure report has not yet been prepared, so this element of your request is declined on the basis it does not exist – in accordance with section 18(e) of the Act.

The *Major Projects Report 2025* was recently considered by the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee, and was published on the Ministry's website on 3 September at <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/major-projects-report-2025/>. This provides you with detailed information about the status of the FHFRR project, including details about schedule, and project costs. It provides a history of variations to schedule, noting the delay in delivery and approval by the Minister of Defence in 2023 to re-baseline the project schedule.

In addition, enclosed is the FHFRR element of a recent report to the Minister of Defence on the project, covering the end of the 2025/26 financial year. This includes updated information on spending for the project. It has been necessary to withhold some information in this Ministerial report extract:

- as release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand, in accordance with section 6(a) of the Act, and
- to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations), in accordance with section 9(2)(j) of the Act.

The project's risk register is withheld in full:

- as release would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand, in accordance with section 6(a) of the Act, and
- to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations), in accordance with section 9(2)(j) of the Act.

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

Yours sincerely

Sarah Minson
Deputy Secretary, Capability Delivery

Enclosed:

- FHFRR project report from *Minister of Defence's Project Report May/June 2026*.

FIXED HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO REFRESH

CURRENT STATUS

Interim Operational Release 1 was achieved in the first quarter of 2026, as scheduled.

Achieving the IOR milestone confirms the HF Radio Capability (HFRC), in its interim state, is safe, fit for service and suitable for operation.



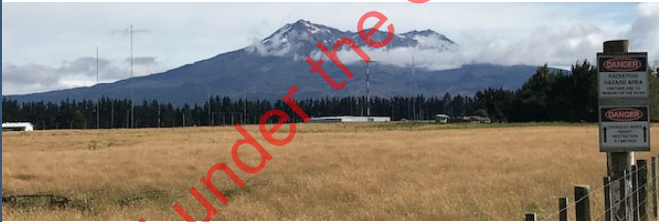
Project Budget (Hedged)	\$27.65m
Expenditure to 30 June 2026	\$24.39m
s9(2)(j)	
Overall Health	G
Schedule	G
Budget	G
Benefits	G

PURPOSE

Rationalising, consolidating and upgrading all fixed, owned or leased NZDF high frequency communications installations, facilities and stations.

CAPABILITY STATUS:

Interim Operational Release



2025: Q1
Installation
commenced

2026: Q1
Interim
Operational
Release

JUN 2026

