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MANATŪ KAUPAPA WAONGA
NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

19 November 2026

RESPONSE TO YOUR INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 28 October 2026, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), data relating to Defence capability delivery. Responses to each of your questions are set out below:

> *1. For each quarter from 1 July 2026 to the latest available quarter: the number of major capability projects/programmes in delivery, and the number and percentage assessed as on schedule. If separate measures are held for delivery to Interim Operational Release and later/full delivery, please provide both.*

The Ministry of Defence's non-financial performance measures track 17 major capability projects being delivered in quarter 1 2026/27 (July–September 2026). This covers projects and programmes up to Interim Operational Release (IOR), when the capability is inherently understood and can be effectively employed on operations. Delivery to IOR is the best reflection of the Ministry's performance.

Of these, 12 of 17 (71%) are to schedule for quarter 1. This is the latest available quarter.

> *2. For each quarter over the same period: actual capital expenditure on major Defence capability projects and the forecast against which that expenditure was being managed at the time.*

The table below sets out actual expenditure on the Ministry's major capability projects that are in delivery against the most recent forecast. This covers all capital spend on these projects, beyond IOR and through to project closure.

2026/27 quarter 1 (1 Jul – 30 Sep 2026)	**Actual Expenditure**	**Forecast (PREFU)**
Total portfolio	$56,777,056	$30,666,000

The variance between forecast and actual expenditure above is mainly due to earlier than expected disbursement of expenditure under the Foreign Military Sales programme for the Future Air Mobility Capability – Tactical project. This does not impact delivery. This is managed within the Ministry's annual appropriation and will not result in any overspend against approved expenditure within the portfolio.

Please note that budgets are established on a whole-of-project basis rather than by quarter, reflecting the multi-year nature of defence capability projects and providing flexibility to manage expenditure across delivery milestones, project phases and financial years. Forecasts are updated regularly over the life of the project, reflecting changes to the timing of expenditure and refinement of assumptions as the projects progress through the delivery phase.

> *3. For each quarter over the same period: the total approved budget or forecast cost of the major capability projects/programmes in delivery.*

The total approved budget for each project or programme is provided in the *Managing Project Finances* section on pages 29–30 of the Ministry's 2025/26 Annual Report, which lists the Cabinet budget for each major capability project in delivery (along with details about the management of foreign currency movement). This is available from the Ministry's website here: https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/ministry-of-defence-manatu-kaupapa-waonga-annual-report/.

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