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

23 January 2026

Nigel Gray
fyi-request-33154-daf1abdd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nigel

REPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Financial Allocations

- *A breakdown of all funds allocated, committed, or transferred by the New Zealand Government since 1 January 2023 to overseas governments, agencies, or entities in connection with military, defence, or security-related activities.*
- *The total amount disbursed, categorized by recipient country, agency, or program.*

Decision-Making Process

- *Copies of Cabinet papers, ministerial briefings, or Treasury documents that authorized or recommended these expenditures.*
- *Any legal or policy frameworks cited as justification for such spending.*

Recipient Legitimacy and Oversight

- *Documentation assessing the legitimacy, recognition status, or governance standards of recipient governments or entities.*
- *Any risk assessments, due diligence reports, or oversight mechanisms applied before funds were transferred.*

Public Accountability

- *Details of how these expenditures were communicated to Parliament or the public, including press releases, budget statements, or Hansard references.*
- *Any monitoring or evaluation reports on the impact of these funds.*

In preparing a response to your information request, we interpreted your questions to be focused on funds exchanged between the New Zealand Government and other jurisdictions, primarily through financial aid contributions. We understand that you have also made a similar request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who will be better placed to provide details on aspects of their International Development Cooperation programme.

By way of background information, the Ministry of Defence (the Ministry) is a civilian agency responsible for the development of defence policy, international defence engagements, and the delivery of major capability projects. Details pertaining to the Ministry's overall work programme and associated expenditure can be found in our Annual report at <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/ministry-of-defence-annual-report-2025>. Further information regarding the Ministry's budget for Vote Defence are available at: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/estimates/vote-defence-external-sector-estimates-appropriations-2025-26>

In 2023/24, the Ministry transferred \$1.5 million from an underspend in its departmental appropriation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which was then used to support Ukraine. Further information related to this transfer can be found at: <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/new-zealand-assistance-for-ukraine-military-options-20242025/>

In some instances, when the Ministry purchases major military equipment, this is done by way of government to government agreements through the United States Foreign Military Sales System. This process can be used to facilitate the sale and export of US defence equipment, services and training. This low-risk procurement option can result in more favourable pricing, both for initial purchase and through-life support, than New Zealand could negotiate directly with a supplier. Through FMS, New Zealand has acquired equipment, systems, and training equipment, including the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and the C-130J-30 Hercules, and their respective training simulators. Key Cabinet decision related to these purchases can be found at:

- <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/defence-force-fasc-approval-to-purchase-the-boeing-p-8a-poseidon-aircraft/>
- <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/future-air-mobility-capability-detailed-business-case>
- <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/defence-tactical-future-air-mobility-capability-2020/>

One of the key ways in which the Ministry's expenditure is assessed on an annual basis is through the annual audit process, which is undertaken by Audit NZ. The outcome of this is not only reflected in the Ministry's Annual Report, available at <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications/ministry-of-defence-annual-report-2025>, but also through the Annual Review of the Ministry's performance at the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Select Committee Hearing. A summary report of the Ministry's Annual Review of the 2023/2024 financial year is available at the Select Committee website, <https://selectcommittees.parliament.nz/v/6/78a286ac-c328-406c-280f-08dd5f5bb5a8?lang=en>, and the most recent hearing is available to watch online at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10758106?video=1142264169>.

Should you wish to clarify your request further, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry.

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