

Office of Hon Ron Mark

Minister of Defence
Minister for Veterans



01 MAY 2019

OIA-2019-0162

Paul Holland
Fyi-request-10174-a8f1e46b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Paul Holland

Thank you for your email of 21 April 2019 in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *Can you please advise the dates when the announcement of the C-130H(NZ) Hercules Replacement component of the Future Air Mobility Capability Project will be made.*
2. *Can you please advise the dates that the Hercules replacement tender acceptance has been submitted to Cabinet for approval.*

As this project is yet to be considered by Cabinet, the dates for the tender acceptance for the Hercules replacement, and when a decision will be announced, have not yet been determined. I am therefore declining this part of your request under section 18(e) as the information you requested does not yet exist.

3. *Can you please advise the reasons for the continual delays of the Hercules replacement by Cabinet, given that the case for approval of the preferred tender was submitted to the previous Cabinet and hence the current Cabinet approximately two years ago.*

The Future Air Mobility Capability is a critical capacity for the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), and represents a significant investment for Defence, and the Government. In cases such as this, Defence officials carefully examine a wide range of options to determine that the choice we make is the most effective option, and allow our Defence personnel to best carry out their duties. Many of the capability decisions made by Defence are long term investments that will be in use for several decades. It is therefore vital that we ensure that

the choice we make is the correct one. The current C-130 Hercules has been in use since the 1960s.

Further updates on the Future Air Mobility Capability project will be available from: www.defence.govt.nz/what-we-do/delivering-defence-capability/, and following Cabinet consideration any papers related to this project will be proactively released at www.defence.govt.nz/publications/.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben McLachlan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben McLachlan
Senior Ministerial Advisor