



11 June 2019

Valerie Morse
fyi-request-10393-f18af7e2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Valerie Morse

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 27 May 2019. Your request for all Ministry of Defence information, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), relating to the recent purchase of the Robo-Team robots, would require substantial collation and as such we are declining your request under section 18(f) of the Act. However, the following information in relation to your specific questions is provided below:

1. *The total dollar value of the contract.*

The value of the contract for the purchase of the Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs) is 9 million NZD.

2. *Any information about a communications plan or how this purchase would be communicated to the New Zealand public.*

There is no dedicated communications plan regarding the purchase of the UGVs as this is a routine replacement of old equipment. Defence will look to publicise the use of the UGVs through their use in domestic tasks, such as assisting New Zealand Police in bomb disposal. They will also assist in the disposal of the remnants of war in the Pacific, and ensure that our personnel are safe on operations.

3. *Whether these robots have been or can be retrospectively fitted to carry armaments?*

The UGVs will be fitted with systems that diagnose, mitigate, and neutralise explosive and chemical risks. They will not be fitted with armaments.

4. *What support/maintenance services are covered by this contract?*

The support and ongoing maintenance of this equipment will be provided by Australian company Trakka Tech.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a large 'Q' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Helene Quilter
Secretary of Defence