



OIA-2019-3574  
OIA-2019-3575

20 August 2019

**Mr Gregory Ettridge**

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Dear Mr Ettridge

I refer to your two emails of 15 July 2019 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). In the first, you asked for:

- *the organisational structure of No. 40 Squadron RNZAF and staff complements i.e pilots, flight stewards etc.*
- *since 1 October 2017 to 13 July 2019, the list of flights on the two RNZAF boeing 757 taken by the Prime [M]inister and her predecessor and the list of passengers on each flight.*

In the second, you asked for:

- *Since October 1 2017 to July 13 2019, the list of flights on the RNZAF boeing 757 taken by the Deputy Prime [M]inister and his predecessor and the list of passengers on each flight.*

I enclose a copy of *No. 40 Squadron Orders and Instructions, Part 1 - Order 1: Squadron Organisation*. Most acronyms have obvious meanings, the one possible exception being SNCOIC – Senior Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge.

The current non-commissioned staff complement for 40 Squadron (that is, filled positions rather than theoretical “established” positions) is three Aircraft Technician Flight Sergeants, seven Avionics Technician Sergeants, eleven Aircraft Technician Sergeants, two Safety and Surface Sergeants, five Avionics Technician Corporals, eleven Aircraft Technician Corporals, two Safety and Surface Corporals, seven Avionics Technician Leading Aircraftsmen, twelve Aircraft Technician Leading Aircraftsmen and one Safety and Surface Leading Aircraftsman.

The Boeing 757 aircraft complement includes ten pilots, four Air Loadmasters and fourteen flight stewards. The Hercules personnel complement includes thirteen pilots, eight Air Warfare Officers, eight Flight Engineers and ten Air Loadmasters.

Nine Boeing B757 flights are relevant to your second request:

- NSB668 in November 2017
- NPB895 in March 2018
- NAB310 in March 2018
- NPB991 in September 2018

- NSB718 in November 2018
- NZB396 in March 2019
- NZB448 in March 2019
- NZB786 in March 2018 and
- NPB826 in June 2019.

Several of these flights were flown in stages. For the flights NSB668, NPB895, NPB991 and NSB718, some passengers went to all destinations, but others disembarked or embarked *en route* (for example, the Pacific Island leaders on NPB991).

Leaving on 9 November 2017, NSB668 flew from Wellington to Whenuapai to Da Nang in Vietnam for the APEC and Trans Pacific Partnership leaders' meetings. The flight then proceeded to Clark International Airport near Manila for the East Asia Summit and an ASEAN 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister were both on board, as was the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a party of eight journalists and 21 officials, together with members of the Diplomatic Protection Squad and on-board aircrew. NSB668 returned to Wellington on 16 November 2017.

On 4 March 2018, NPB895 flew from Whenuapai to Wellington and returned to Whenuapai before departing for Apia, Niue, Tonga, and Rarotonga. The flight returned to Wellington via Whenuapai. In addition to conveying the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister on the annual Pacific Mission, the flight also carried five Ministers, two Ministers in the last Government, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands (between Rarotonga and Wellington), the High Commissioners of the Cook Islands and of Samoa, four senior officials and fifty-one others, including New Zealand-based Pasifika community leaders and representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations, four journalists and three military personnel.

NAB310 flew from Wellington to Sydney on 1 March 2018 to the Australia-New Zealand Leaders' Meeting. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister were both on board, as were seven Ministers, the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand, 27 members of a business delegation, 11 media representatives, 20 officials and a member of the Diplomatic Protection Squad.

NPB991 was a 3 September 2018 flight from Whenuapai to Nauru taking the Deputy Prime Minister to the Pacific Island Forum, a second movement from Whenuapai to Nauru taking the Prime Minister and, on 8 September 2018, a return flight from Nauru to Whenuapai. As well as the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, others travelling on the flight on one or more legs included the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Prime Minister of Tonga, the Premier of Niue, the Ulu of Tokelau, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, the President of New Caledonia, the President of French Polynesia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Papua New Guinea, a Minister from Fiji, senior Samoan, Tongan, New Caledonian and French Polynesian officials, protection personnel, a doctor, twelve New Zealand officials and nine media representatives.

The primary route flown by NSB718 conveyed the Prime Minister to the APEC/East Asia Summit conferences. The B757 departed from Whenuapai and flew to Singapore for the East Asia Summit and then to Port Moresby for the APEC Conference. On board were the Prime Minister, the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, senior officials and two journalists (other Ministers joined the New Zealand party in Singapore and in Papua New Guinea). While the East Asia Summit proceeded, Flight NSB718 returned 99 NZDF personnel from Sydney to Ohakea. The aircraft then flew to Cairns, stopping overnight, and then to Singapore to embark the Prime Minister, the MFAT delegation and four NZDF personnel from Singapore to Port Moresby. The aircraft then returned to Cairns because there was no overnight parking space for the aircraft or crew accommodation in

Port Moresby. The last legs of the flight were from Cairns to Port Moresby, where it embarked the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the MFAT delegation, and on to Whenuapai.

In the immediate aftermath of the Christchurch shootings, on 16 March 2019, NZB396 flew from Wellington to Christchurch with 39 passengers, including the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Green Party, other Ministers and Members of Parliament, journalists and officials.

A second flight in the aftermath of the Christchurch shootings, NZB448, left Whenuapai for Wellington and Christchurch on 20 March 2019, conveying the Prime Minister, Ministers and Members of Parliament, journalists and officials.

The day before the National Remembrance Service on 29 March, flight NZB786 flew from Whenuapai to Wellington to Christchurch. The Prime Minister was on board, together with approximately 50 Police personnel.

The Deputy Prime Minister's participation in the 2019 Pacific Mission was supported by flight NPB826 which departed from Whenuapai to Honiara and on to Port Vila on 3 June 2019. As well as the Minister for Pacific Peoples and eight other Members of Parliament, the flight carried more than 30 people in a large New Zealand delegation including Pasifika representatives, New Zealand officials and journalists. From Port Vila, flight NPB826 returned to Whenuapai.

I trust that this satisfies your request for official information, but you retain a right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response.

Yours sincerely



**A.J. WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

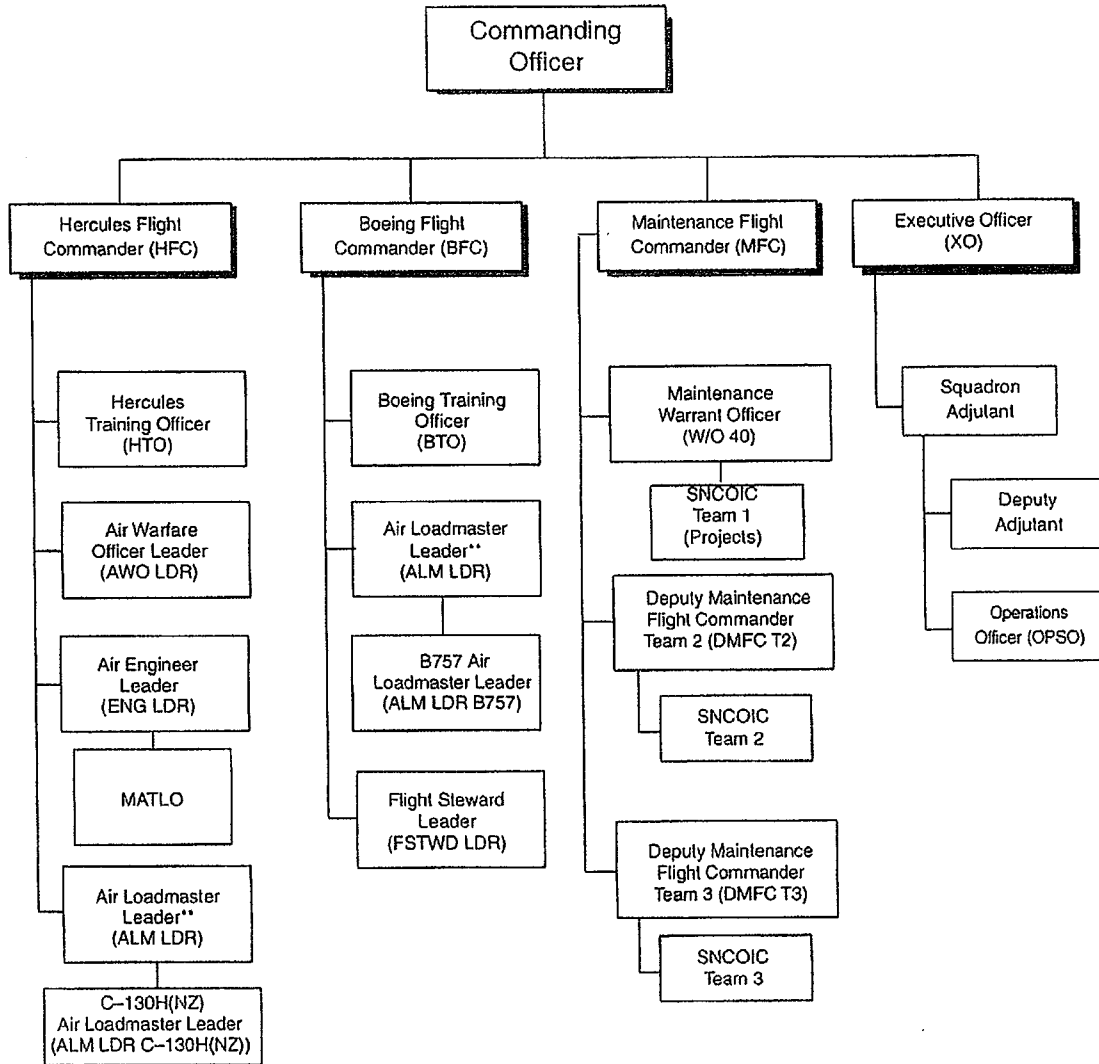
**Enclosure**

*1. No. 40 Squadron Orders and Instructions, Part 1 – Order 1: Squadron Organisation*

# NO. 40 SQUADRON ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS

## PART 1 – ORDER 1:

### SQUADRON ORGANISATION



#### Note

\*\* Air Loadmaster Leader for both C-130H(NZ) and B757 is a dual position held by the Air Loadmaster Leader as detailed in Annex 1.