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

17 December 2024

Sonnie Bailey  
[fyi-request-29290-42aab2ac@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29290-42aab2ac@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Sonnie

## RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2024, in which you asked, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information pertaining to the Utility Vehicle Replacement project. We have addressed the four questions that you raised as part of your OIA request below.

1. *What were the requirements for the Light and Medium utility vehicle program specified by NZDF/MOD?*

In November 2022, the Ministry of Defence released a Request for Proposal (RFP) on the Government Electronic Tender Service that outlined the requirements for the Utility Vehicle Replacement project. A copy of this document is enclosed as part of your response.

For your awareness, these documents were updated throughout the RFP process and as a result a number of track changes were retained in the documents to notify the vendors of these amendments.

2. *What were the criteria that led to the selection of the VATMAC family of utility vehicles?*

The evaluation criteria and the approach taken to assess each of the proposals submitted for the selection process of the VATMAC family of utility vehicles are enclosed as part of the *Request for Proposal* on page 26.

3. *What is the operating scenario that the VATMAC family of utility vehicles can be used for?*

The operational utility vehicle fleet is regularly used by New Zealand Defence Force units for both domestic and on overseas deployments. This has been in support of stability and security operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, and search and rescue deployments.

4. *What other families of Vehicles were considered, and why were they down-selected?*

Fives responses to the RFP were received. These covered a range of vehicle and logistics solutions. The details that specifically relate to the unsuccessful tenderers are withheld, pursuant to section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, in order to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject of the information.

The *Utility Vehicle Replacement Tranche One* Cabinet paper provides further information relating to the selection of the VAMTAC vehicles. This paper is currently being prepared for proactive release, and therefore is withheld for the time being in accordance with section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be made public on the Ministry's website at: <https://www.defence.govt.nz/>.

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**

Enclosed:

- *UV\_RFP\_Part\_1\_Instructions\_and\_Conditions\_of\_Proposal*
- *UV\_RFP\_Part\_2\_Encl\_1\_Statement\_of\_Requirements\_Sect\_2\_Requirements*
- *UV\_RFP\_Part\_2\_Encl\_2\_TLS\_Requirements\_SOW*
- *UV\_RFP\_Part\_2\_Encl\_3\_CDRL\_and\_DIDs*