

OIA-2016-2522

19 August 2016

Nik Bruce-Smith

fyi-request-4358-30d53386@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Bruce-Smith

I refer to your email of 3 August 2016 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about the use and number of tugboats in the Royal New Zealand Navy. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force on 3 August 2016 for response.

Specifically, you asked:

1. *The total number of tugboats that are considered to form part of the New Zealand Navy.*

The Royal New Zealand Navy has no tugboats in service.

2. *How much money the Ministry of Defence (New Zealand Defence Force) has spent on tugboats in the past 5 years?*

The New Zealand Defence Force is unable to provide this information without a substantial collation and research effort. To collate the figures requested would require person-days of work and the Navy does not have surplus staff resources to divert from their usual tasks. In addition, some charges are found only with all-inclusive port services charges, which would require even more time to identify any included tug charges. I can, however, provide you with a sample list of all Royal New Zealand Navy Fleet port visits for the period from 1 July 2015 to 31 June 2016 (see Enclosure 1) and charges for international and domestic use of tugboat services by the Navy during this period:

- a. When HMNZS *Te Kaha* visited the Port of Sembawang (Singapore) on 23 September 2015, the ship used tugs at a total cost of \$2,677.39.
- b. When HMNZS *Wellington* visited the Port of Nelson on 19 November 2015, the ship used tugs at a total cost of \$1,570.80.

Another example of expenditure for international use of tugboat services, although not listed in Enclosure 1, occurred during HMNZS *Te Kaha*'s visit to Darwin from 20-24 March 2015. The ship employed tugs at a total cost of \$13,828.55.

Domestically, the cost of tugboat services in Auckland is covered by the contract the New Zealand Defence Force has with Babcock New Zealand, so the Navy does not incur tug costs directly.

3. *All documents, reports and information held by the Ministry of Defence relating to the use or role of tugboats in New Zealand Navy operations?*

I have enclosed the documents that the Royal New Zealand Navy has on file relating to the use or role of tugboats (see Enclosures 2 to 5). Where appropriate, information has been removed from Enclosure 5 under section 6(a) of the OIA, to avoid prejudice to the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

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

Yours sincerely



G.R. SMITH
Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosures:

1. List of all Royal New Zealand Navy Fleet port visits for the period from 1 July 2015 to 31 June 2016
2. Letter to Babcock NZ Ltd - Assisted Maintenance Period - *Arataki*
3. Chief of Naval Staff Memorandum dated 14 March 1998 - Radio Telephone Installation Survey, *Arataki*
4. RNZFA *Arataki* Valuation
5. Emails dated 29 July 1999 and 30 July 1999 and Agenda for the Maritime Command Major Tenders Board dated 29 July 1999 regarding the sale of the tug '*Arataki*'