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OIA-2018-2978

5 March 2018

John Homer

fyi-request-7333-b316ae91@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

I refer to your request of 25 February 2018 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), some details around why an Air Force helicopter operated out of Motueka that past week.

A Royal New Zealand Air Force NH90 helicopter used the Motueka airfield while supporting NZ Police's anti-cannabis operation in the Tasman district in late February.

The NH90 helicopter also used the airfield on 21 February 2018 while completing a number of tasks in support of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management's response to ex-tropical cyclone Gita. These tasks included conducting welfare checks on homes isolated either by floodwater or slips, conducting an aerial survey of storm-affected areas, winching Police to several locations that were inaccessible by road, and transporting welfare teams to help civilians stranded in Golden Bay. Welfare teams are organised by local councils and non-governmental organisations, and provide bed, food and shelter to those displaced by a natural disaster.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

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

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