



New Zealand
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OIA-2018-3114

20 June 2018

Phoenix Buchanan

fyi-request-7921-503289c9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Phoenix

I refer to your request of 23 May 2018, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following:

1. *How much did the flights to and from the Chatham Islands cost for the opening of Waitangi Wharf earlier this year?*
2. *What role did the Department of Internal Affairs have in commissioning these flights?*

In accordance with very long-standing practice, the NZDF will, and entirely appropriately, arrange occasional flights for non-military persons travelling on official business. These flights may be specially scheduled, or they may be flights already planned which have available space for non-military persons.

In this instance, the Minister of Internal Affairs wrote to the Minister of Defence requesting the use of a C-130 Hercules aircraft to transport a Government delegation. A copy of this request is enclosed. This request was subsequently approved.

The use of the C-130 is costed at \$25,276.40 based on the short tasking hourly cost for the 5.8 hours involved. The short tasking hourly cost includes marginal personnel costs, fuel costs, and airways charges, but exclude workshop maintenance, personnel salaries, depreciation and capital charge.

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

Enclosure:

1. Letter from the Minister of Internal Affairs

Hon Tracey Martin

Minister for Children
Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Seniors

Associate Minister of Education



14 FEB 2018

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Dear Ron

I am writing to seek your approval of a New Zealand Defence Force VIP Travel Request application that has been submitted on my behalf by the Department of Internal Affairs.

The application seeks the deployment of a C-130 Hercules aircraft to transport a Government delegation, and other esteemed guests, to Chatham Island on 14 March 2018. The purpose of this trip is to officially open the recently reconstructed Waitangi Wharf – a \$56 million infrastructure project funded by the Government, which will make big improvements to the Islands' resilience and regional economic development.

The Government delegation will include a number of Cabinet Ministers, dignitaries and media. As the opening event is timed for mid-March 2018, it coincides with Chatham Islands' peak visitor period. I have been advised there is no room to accommodate guests. Current commercial flights to the Island do not offer same day return flights, requiring an overnight stay.

For these reasons, it is critical that the Government delegation can fly in to, and out of Chatham Island in one day and without interference. Thank you for considering this request.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Tracey Martin
Minister of Internal Affairs

Copy to: Secretary of Defence, Helene Quilter