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New Zealand
**MINISTRY
OF DEFENCE**
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga

8 August 2018

Iain Forsyth
fyi-request-8311-7f2ffdc2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Forsyth

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your request of 11 July 2018, for the following information:

Under the Official Information Act, I would like to request the information surrounding the process around the procurement of the replacement for the RNZAF's P3 Orion aircraft. Specifically, what were the advantages of choosing the P8 Poseidon and what other aircraft were competing against the P8?

Officials carefully examined a wide range of options and demonstrated that the P-8A Poseidon was the most cost effective maritime patrol aircraft available. Key selection criteria were:

- ability to multitask (including various roles in New Zealand's demanding maritime region)
- the aircraft was already fully developed
- had been successfully introduced into foreign markets
- offered the support and cost sharing available to a large user community; and
- had a clearly defined technology growth path.

An objective was to avoid the additional cost and/or risk that would be incurred if any of these factors were absent. The P-8A was the only maritime patrol option that met all of these criteria.

The Ministry of Defence will be releasing the cabinet paper related to this decision in the forthcoming weeks on the Ministry's website at: <https://www.defence.govt.nz/publications>. This will provide further information on the decision, including the other aircraft options.

Under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Quilter', written over a circular stamp.

Helene Quilter
Secretary of Defence