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New Zealand

OIA-2023-4656

21 March 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 3 March 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning a Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) flight from New Zealand to Avalon, Australia.

The Chief of Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Andrew Clark, received an invitation for the RNZAF to attend and participate in the Australian International Air Show and Aerospace and Defence Exposition 2023. The Australian International Air Show and Aerospace and Defence Exposition is an annual event the RNZAF participates in, and this was the first one to be held since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The RNZAF was represented by one Boeing 757 (B757) aircraft. The B757 transported 121 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) military personnel and civilian staff who hold roles ranging from Operations to Logistics. Two Civil Aviation Authority staff were also on board. The trip was scheduled to allow personnel to attend the final day of the Aerospace and Defence Exposition and participate in face-to-face trade meetings with civilian and defence partners participating in the event. The nature of the exposition is that it gives personnel the opportunity to access a wide variety of international vendors and trade expertise in one place, in a short period of time, that would not be possible by other means.

The total cost of the flight from New Zealand to Avalon return was \$63,000. This is based on the short-term tasking rate that includes marginal personnel costs, fuel, landing fees and other associated costs in relation to the flight.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF