



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4806

20 September 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 15 August 2023 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning the Prime Minister's trip to China in June 2023. The following part of your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA:

6. What was the total cost used to provide the RCAF plane and back-up plane? This should include costs such as fuel, maintenance, RCAF staff, food and beverages etc.

The cost for transporting members of the Government and guests of the State forms part of the operational budget of the NZDF under Output 4.4 – Military Assistance to Civil Authorities in Non-Emergency Situations. No additional funding is required for these missions. Information concerning Output 4.4 is publicly available in the Annual Report on the NZDF website¹.

From this funding, the short-term tasking costs for the primary aircraft was \$371,010.50 and \$243,752.70 for the back-up aircraft. These costs include marginal personnel costs, fuel, airport charges and other associated costs in relation to the flight. Short-term tasking rates do not include 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 this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at 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

¹ <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/22-0341-NZDF-Annual-Report-2022-WEB.PDF>