



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

OIA-2024-4988.1

26 July 2024

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 30 May 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*Copies of all proposal documents prepared to give effect to the Government's directive to reduce expenditure in the public service, including but not limited to reduction of staff numbers and resulting redundancies.*

*If no such specific proposal document exists, please provide copies of all documents concerning the reduction of staff and redundancies from 27 November 2023 to present.*

*Your response indicated that information and/or document(s) were withheld due to active consideration / budget sensitivities. As the budget is now public, I repeat my request above, now for any material from 27 November 2023 to 30 May 2024 (inclusive).*

The proposal documents requested are contained within the budget documentation being prepared for proactive release by The Treasury. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) as the information will soon be publicly available.

For your information, the following talking points associated with the Budget 24 announcement and savings to Vote Defence Force are provided below:

***Will there be any redundancies in the New Zealand Defence Force as a result?***

*"It is not anticipated that job losses will occur across either uniformed staff or civilian employees"*

***What cuts have been made, and how much are they?***

*Savings have been identified from a range of areas for the NZDF. The total savings identified over four years are \$99.19 million. These savings include the following:*

- \$45.3M in contractor and consultants, which is generally a percentage decrease across NZDF wide contractor and consultants spend. This includes reducing reliance on contractors that were being used instead of permanent FTE. NZDF are still working through the allocation of their internal budget, however it is not anticipated that any major projects will be stopped as a result of the reductions.*
- \$14.5M in Domestic and Overseas travel which is a general reduction across NZDF.*
- \$16.4M in training and strategic initiatives. This includes a reduction in Senior Officer Education and training, both domestically and internationally. Strategic initiatives include one off operating funding for initiatives that may arise throughout the year that are not otherwise funded.*

- *\$1.34M in other savings including reductions in overheads*

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