



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

OIA-2024-5094

20 August 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 July 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

- Could the expenses or spending by the Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group for the past five years please be provided, broken down by year and by broad category, including the cost of attending Gallipoli and other ceremonies.*
- If such events are budgeted for differently - i.e. is cost is shared by other groups within NZDF, could this please be explained*

The Heritage Commemorations and Protocol Group (HCP) is the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) lead on a wide range of activities that includes, but is not limited to:

- the lead for all New Zealand Government overseas military commemorations (except for Anzac Day) such as the annual Gallipoli commemoration and more recently Cassino 2024;
- supporting all official national domestic commemorations including Anzac Day at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park;
- delivering NZDF ceremonial and protocol support for all state occasions including the opening of Parliament, swearing in and farewell for the Governor-General, Government House Presentation of Credentials ceremonies, Heads of State and Heads of Government visits, and Chief of Defence Force and Vice-Chief of Defence Force hosted visits;
- activities associated with New Zealand's relationship with the Sovereign including Royal visits, those related to the change of Sovereign (lead for planning and delivery of NZDF's Demise of the Crown plan), State Memorial Services, and Royal gun salutes;
- medallic policy including instituting new medals, amending regulations as missions change, updating other medallic recognition policy including order of wear and entitlement to wear issues, foreign awards, and dealing with medallic grievances such as a recent review of medallic recognition for all service in South East Asia 1955-89;
- Support for NZDF Māori Cultural Groups;

- historical work including completion of the last First World War centenary volume – *The War Against the Ottoman Turks*;
- research and advice on historical issues such as the revision of the number of New Zealanders who served at Gallipoli, the lack of recognition for Pacific Coast Watchers and Second World War medal distribution;
- an oral history programme for Afghanistan service and past senior leaders;
- matters relating to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, identification/non-identification of recovered battlefield remains, and historical claims for inclusion on the New Zealand Roll of Honour and cases of non-commemoration; and,
- support to the NZDF-led WAI2500 Māori Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry Crown response project team.

The table below provides the total operational costs (excluding personnel and staff salaries) attributed to HCP, including the cost to attend Gallipoli and other ceremonies, for the past five financial years.

Cost Category	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Computer and Software Charges	\$8,222	\$17,038	\$11,287	\$7,390	\$1,899
Education and Training	\$15,581	\$8,000	\$13,308	\$8,549	\$2,696
Freight and Customs Duty	\$4,055	\$7,009	\$482	\$1,540	\$7
Material and Consumable	\$178,677	\$100,993	\$44,744	\$122,122	\$113,425
Other Purchase Service	\$1,530	\$15,292	\$26,269	\$51,498	\$25,326
Postage and Carriage	\$866	\$307	\$250	\$7,225	\$1,223
Printing and Publications	\$2,331	\$2,240	\$3,400	\$7,823	\$7,266
Professional Services	\$843,340	\$293,955	\$1,167,278	\$1,562,131	\$1,561,007
Repairs and Maintenance	\$0	\$3,153	\$424	\$0	\$0
Telecommunications	\$18,773	\$18,651	\$17,949	\$19,629	\$17,164
Travel Related	\$791,242	\$196,188	\$573,568	\$1,101,512	\$1,006,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,864,617</b>	<b>\$662,826</b>	<b>\$1,858,959</b>	<b>\$2,889,419</b>	<b>\$2,736,589</b>

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