



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

OIA-2024-5131

4 October 2024

James

[fyi-request-28321-e9e2c969@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28321-e9e2c969@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear James

I refer to your email of 7 September 2024 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the following information on the support the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) provided to the Tangihanga for the Māori King, Theitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII in September 2024.

*All communications including but not limited to emails, texts, written correspondence and records of phone calls relating to the request for assistance from the NZ Army or any Defence Force personnel and the acceptance and deployment of personnel for the the tangihanga of the Māori King, Theitia Potatau Te Wherowhero VII.*

Your request for all communications is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as this is not readily retrievable and is held in various forms across the NZDF. Phone conversations are not recorded by the NZDF.

However, communication at a senior level is provided. This includes the following entry from the Defence Weekly Report (29 August – 4 September 2024) to the Minister of Defence:

*New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) support to the Tangihanga for Kiingi Tuheitia, Tūrangawaewae Marae, 31 August- 7 September*

*Kiingi Tuheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII passed away on 29 August. Kiingi Tuheitia's tangihanga is a nationally significant event for Aotearoa New Zealand. The NZDF will support this tangihanga, which is to be held at Tūrangawaewae Marae over the period 31 August- 6 September.*

*The tangihanga has been declared a Hui of National Significance with NZDF support provided under a Memorandum of Understanding between the NZDF and Te Puni Kōkiri. NZDF will support the tangihanga with the following elements:*

*catering support with the provision of field kitchens and catering staff  
logistics support with the provision of planning and liaison staff, tentage and work parties  
air support for key Government leaders  
ceremonial representation.*

*In addition to this support, on 4 September the NZDF was represented by a delegation of key leaders including the Chief of Defence Force, Chief of Navy, Chief of Army and the Acting Chief of Air Force. NZDF support will conclude following events on 6 September.*

Enclosed is an email trail between Te Puni Kōkiri and the NZDF concerning support to the Hui of National Significance. Where indicated, information regarding operational personnel is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the security and defence of New Zealand, and personal information is withheld to protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

*Total number of personnel involved, including drivers, kitchen staff, logistics, other support staff etc.*

*Length of time personal [sic] deployed inclusive of travel time.*

In support of the Hui of National Significance, 29 personnel were deployed for seven days and a ceremonial detachment of 14 personnel was deployed for two days.

*Accommodation for the NZDF personnel and any costs associated with it.*

Below is a breakdown of the accommodation arrangements. No costs were associated with this accommodation.

Location of Accommodation	Number of Beds
Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Auckland	14
Tūrangawaewae Marae	28
Private accommodation	1

*Number of NZDF vehicles used and any other types of transport that were required and utilised.*

The NZDF Boeing 757 was used to transport senior leadership to the Marae. In addition, four NZDF vans and one car were used to transport personnel.

*Any food/items/koha for the event on behalf of the NZDF.*

The NZDF did not provide any food, items or koha for the event.

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.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosure:**

1. Email

Ministerial Services

From: Hugh McAslan s.9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2024 4:54 p.m.
To: Shaw, Andrew, BRIG; Paula Rawiri; Thompson, Tuijo, CDR
Cc: s.6(a) Arndell, Shane, CDRE; Brown, Andrew, CDRE
Subject: RE: unclassified NZDF Support to the Hui of National Significance

Kia ora Andy,

Thanks for confirming TJ as the Liaison Officer. I will now leave Paula and TJ to contact each other to commence coordination for NZDF support.

Ngā mihi

Hugh

Hugh McAslan, DSD
Deputy Secretary | Hautū
Te Puni Kaupapa Hiranga me Mana
Whakahaere
Critical Projects & Governance
Head Office | Te Tari Matua



Waea Pūkoro M : + s.9(2)(a)
Waea Whakaahua F : s.9(2)(a)

Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Puni Kōkiri House, 143 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011,
PO Box 3943, Wellington 6140, New Zealand



From: Shaw, Andrew, BRIG <s.6(a)>
Sent: Friday, 30 August 2024 3:19 pm
To: Hugh McAslan <s.9(2)(a)>; Paula Rawiri <s.9(2)(a)>
Cc: s.6(a) Thompson, Tuijo, CDR
s.6(a)
s.6(a) Arndell, Shane, CAPT RNZN s.6(a)
Brown, Andrew, CDRE s.6(a)
Subject: RE: unclassified NZDF Support to the Hui of National Significance

Hugh,
Ack and thanks.

Paula,
Nice to meet you and please don't hesitate to give me a call. Our lead liaison will be Commander Tuijo (TJ) Thompson from the Royal New Zealand Navy. Commander Thompson is Tainui, has connection to Kingitanga and is the Commanding Officer (designate) for HMNZS Te Mana, noting the Kingitanga association to this ship. His contact number is: s.6(a) or email: s.6(a) TJ will be deploying from Wellington as soon as possible. Furthermore, we have warned out our deployable catering unit and they are currently preparing to deploy, TJ will be able to provide more details on arrival.

Respectfully

Andy

BRIG Andrew Shaw

Assistant Chief Strategic Commitments & Engagements  
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s.6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



**From:** Hugh McAslan [mailto:s.9(2)(a)]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 August 2024 3:08 p.m.  
**To:** Paula Rawiri s.9(2)(a); Shaw, Andrew, BRIG <s.6(a)>  
**Subject:** unclassified NZDF Support to the Hui of National Significance

Kia ora kōrua,

The email serves to link-up key leaders from TPK and NZDF to facilitate NZDF support to the Hui of National Significance with the passing of Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero, VII.

We have just been advised that the letter from Minister Pōtaka to Minister Collins requesting NZDF support to the hui has been approved by Minister Collin’s office. Subsequently, Dave has sent a letter to CDF a short time ago to confirm the request for support and liaison arrangements. I have enclosed this letter.

Paula is the Deputy Secretary representing TPK and the Government given TPK is lead, on the ground in Turangawaewae. Andrew leads NZDF’s strategic planning function and commitments, that will include coordinating and directing NZDF support to the hui as requested by whanau.

In the first instance, NZDF are ready to send a Liaison Officer to Turangawaewae to work with Paula and understand support requirements.

Can I suggest the liaison officer contact Paula in the first instance to advise when they will be in location to commence coordination of support.

Andrew: if you could advise the name and number of the NZDF liaison officer, that would be helpful, including a likely ETA in Turangawaewae.

Respective contact numbers are:

Paula: s.9(2)(a)

Andrew s.6(a) Landline: s.6(a)

Please advise if you have any further questions at this point in time.

Ngā mihi

Hugh

**Hugh McAslan, DSD**  
Deputy Secretary | Hautū  
Te Puni Kaupapa Hiranga me Mana  
Whakahaere  
Critical Projects & Governance  
Head Office | Te Tari Matua



Waea Pūkoro M : s.9(2)(a)  
Waea Whakaahua F : s.9(2)(a)

**Te Puni Kōkiri**, Te Puni Kōkiri House, 143 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011,  
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