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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

19 April 2024

Lional Jones

fyi-request-26052-c26b1623@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Lional

RESPONSE TO YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 10 March 2024, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

lists of persons on working groups or other panels responsible for aircraft procurement decisions between August 2017 and current. Please list them by name, role/rank and if they declared any conflicts of interest.

On 12 April, I informed you that I was extending your request by five working days to 19 April, to complete the necessary consultation with other government agencies for your request. Agency consultation is now complete.

The Ministry of Defence (the Ministry) is the agency responsible for the purchase of large scale military equipment. During the period covered by your request, this has involved the purchase of the following aircraft:

- Air Surveillance Maritime Patrol (ASMP) project – delivering the P-8A Poseidon aircraft
- Future Air Mobility Capability – Tactical (FAMC-T) project – delivering the C-130J-30 Super Hercules aircraft.

The Cabinet makes final decisions on the purchase of major defence equipment. In the case of the purchase of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft, the purchase decision was made by Cabinet in July 2018. In the case of the C-130J-30 Hercules, the purchase decision was made by Cabinet in June 2020. The decisions and associated Cabinet papers for both the ASMP and FAMC-T projects are available on the Ministry's website at: <https://defence.govt.nz/publications>.

The purchase decisions were informed by project implementation business cases approved by joint governance boards involving senior members of both the Ministry and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). The membership of these governance bodies for the relevant purchase business cases is provided at Appendix A and includes:

- Defence Capability Governance Board (CGB)
- Defence Capability Management Group (CMG)
- Future Air Surveillance Capability Project Board
- Future Air Capability Mobility – Tactical Project Board.

The project boards each include an external member, who is an advisory member appointed to strengthen the board through their expertise and experience in the governance of relevant complex and large scale projects. They provide additional assurance, subject matter expertise and diversity of thinking and challenge within the board. The external member is a fully participating member but does not have any individual decision-making authority. I have not provided the names of external board members. This is necessary, in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to support free and frank discussion and maintain the effective administration of these bodies.

More details about the joint Defence governance for major equipment projects are provided below.

Capability Management System

The Ministry and NZDF jointly operate the Capability Management System that enables cost effective design, delivery, maintenance and eventual disposal of military capability. These governance bodies focus on whether projects are on schedule, within scope and on budget, and that risks and issues are being appropriately identified and managed. They make decisions and provide the necessary approvals for projects. Although these governance bodies are focused on the successful delivery of these projects, investment intentions are subject to individual business cases and subject to Cabinet approval.

Project Boards

Projects are governed by project boards, commensurate with the scale and risk of the project. Project boards are responsible for providing ongoing assurance to the CGB that the project will successfully deliver the expected outcomes and benefits.

Governance Bodies

The CGB is the highest level governance body for capability projects. It acts as an escalation point for any operational risks and issues that threaten the successful delivery of projects. The CMG supports the CGB by making recommendations based on a common understanding and alignment of the members' delegated management responsibilities. It is focused on operational management activities, such as project risk management and resource coordination.

Conflicts of Interest

Following a review of the relevant information and to the best of our knowledge, whilst some members have declared interests, no actual conflicts of interest were identified for any members of these Boards.

All new appointees to governance boards are asked to consider and declare any actual or perceived conflicts of interest on appointment. All governance members are also expected to report any potential conflicts as they arise – governance meetings commence with an invitation to record these. There is also an annual requirement to update individual interest declarations, which is reviewed by Audit New Zealand as part of standard practice. Conflicts are also reported in the Ministry's responses to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee as part of the annual financial review process.

It is not considered that the public interest in this information outweighs the need to protect it.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Minson', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Minson
Deputy Secretary, Capability Delivery

Appendix A: Members of governance groups involved in aircraft purchase decisions.

APPENDIX A: MEMBERS OF GOVERNANCE GROUPS INVOLVED IN AIRCRAFT PURCHASE DECISIONS

Future Air Surveillance Capability Board– P-8A Implementation Business Case

Capability Governance Board – Approved submission of the business case to Cabinet	
Role on Board	Position, Rank (if applicable), Name
Co-Chair (MOD)	Secretary of Defence, Ms Helene Quilter
Co-Chair (NZDF)	Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Kevin Short*
External member	Civilian
Capability Management Group – endorsed the business case	
Role on Board	Position, Rank (if applicable), Name
Co-Chair (MOD)	Deputy Secretary Capability Delivery, Mr Mike Yardley
Co-Chair (NZDF)	Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Vice Marshal Kevin Short*
Member	Director Executive Branch, Ms Carol Douglass
Member	Assistant Chief Capability, Air Commodore Andrew Clark
Member	Deputy Commander Joint Force New Zealand, Air Commodore Kevin McEvoy
Member	Deputy Chief of Navy, Commodore Mat Williams
Member	Deputy Chief of Army (Representative), Colonel Mathew Boggs
Member	Deputy Chief of Air Force (Representative), Group Captain Karl Harvey
Future Air Mobility Capability Project Board – endorsed the business case	
Role on Board	Rank (if applicable) Name
Co-Chair (MOD)	Deputy Secretary Policy and Planning, Mr Tony Lynch
Co-Chair (NZDF)	Deputy Commander Joint Force New Zealand, Air Commodore Kevin McEvoy
Senior User	Director Information and Capability Technology Operations, Group Captain John Lovatt
Senior Supplier	Assistant Deputy Secretary Capability Delivery, Mr Huntley Wright
External Member	Civilian

* On 1 July 2018, Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Vice Marshal Kevin Short was promoted to Chief of Defence Force.

Future Air Mobility Capability Project – C-130J Project Implementation Business Case

Capability Governance Board – Approved submission of the business case to Cabinet	
Role on Board	Position, Rank (if applicable), Name
Co-Chair (MOD)	Secretary of Defence, Mr Andrew Bridgman
Co-Chair (NZDF)	Chief of Defence Force, Air Marshal Kevin Short
External member	Civilian
Combined Capability Management Group and Acquisition Review Board – endorsed the business case	
Role on Board	Position, Rank (if applicable), Name
Co-Chair (MOD)	Acting Deputy Secretary Policy and Planning, Mr Mike Yardley
Co-Chair (NZDF)	Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Vice Marshal Tony Davies
Member	Acting Deputy Secretary Capability Delivery, Mr Richard Burn
Member	Assistant Chief Capability, Air Commodore Darryn Webb
Member	Acting Deputy Chief of Navy, Captain Melanie Ross
Member	Acting Deputy Chief of Army, Colonel Duncan Roy
Member	Deputy Chief of Air Force, Air Commodore Carol Abraham
Member	Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Tim Walshe
Member	Logistics Commander (Air), Group Captain Colin Marshall
Member	MOD Chief Financial Officer, Mr Pasanka Wickremasinghe
Member	Chief Staff Officer Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand, Captain Andrew Brown
Future Air Mobility Capability Project Board – endorsed the business case	
Role on Board	Position, Rank (if applicable), Name
Co-Chair (MOD)	Director Land Domain, Mr Richard Burn
Co-Chair (NZDF)	Land Component Commander, Brigadier Hugh McAslan
Senior User	Air Component Commander, Air Commodore Tim Walshe
Senior Supplier	Director Air Domain, Mr Neil Hygate
External Member	Civilian