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OIA-2020-3952

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Mark Allen

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Dear Mark Allen

I refer to your request of 25 October 2020, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the following:

- *What is "Operation Kea"?*
- *Who ordered - and/or is in charge of - Operation Kea?*
- *Who specifically is participating in Operation Kea?*
- *What is the estimated budget of Operation Kea?*
- *Where can the specific details of Operation Kea be found?*

The name Operation KEA is historical. It refers to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel who were deployed to Afghanistan and assumed staff officer positions in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters in Kabul, and Instructor/Mentor and support staff roles at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in partnership with the United Kingdom, Australia and Denmark (also in Kabul). Operation KEA was active during the time that the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team operated in Bamyán Province, Afghanistan.

Mandated by the Government of New Zealand, Operation KEA started in October 2006 and ended in October 2014, at which point those NZDF personnel at ISAF Headquarters returned to New Zealand and the NZDF personnel at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy transitioned to a new mission name, Operation RUA II. Operation RUA II remains active today and refers to New Zealand's current contribution to coalition efforts in Afghanistan. Further information regarding deployments is available on the NZDF and MoD websites.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**  
Air Commodore  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF