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OIA-2023-4861

// December 2023

Erica Whitton
fyi-request-24733-aa2e37db@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Erica Whittome

I refer to your email of 13 November 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

- 1. What budget was allocated for Covid 19 health and safety activities at NZDF for the 2021/2022 financial years? For example Covid advisors, Covid risk specialist roles, website info pages etc*
- 2. What designations did the NZDF receive under section 191 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 in order to act as a regulator for health and safety*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) did not allocate specific budgets for any COVID-19 health and safety activities in the 2021/2022 financial year. Any costs relating to the COVID response, including Operation Protect (the mission name for NZDF support to the all-of-government response to COVID-19), were met from within NZDF existing budgets. This aspect of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as the requested information does not exist.

Section 191 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 allows for the Chief of Defence Force (CDF) to be designated as a designated agency for a specified scope. CDF has never been designated as a designated agency under s 191 of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

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 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