

OIA-2015-2235

19 May 2015

Annette Papuni-McLellan

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Dear Ms Papuni-McLellan

I refer to your email to the Minister of Veteran's Affairs of 30 April 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), statistics relating to the Gallipoli centenary ballot. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force for a response. You asked for:

1. *The total number of ballots that the NZ government had for the ANZAC 100th Year Commemorations for issuing to NZ citizens.*

New Zealand was allocated 2,000 attendance passes (1,000 double passes) for this year's centennial Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli. Of these passes, 10 percent were set aside for direct descendants and another 10 percent for veterans. A total of 100 single passes were reserved for allocation by the government outside of the ballot. Of these, 35 double passes were awarded to children of Gallipoli veterans, and 30 were allocated to Youth Ambassadors and their chaperones. After the initial ballot an additional 30 attendance passes were provided by the Turkish Government (which had returned a portion of its VIP allocation), leaving a total of 2,030 New Zealand attendance passes.

2. *The total number that were accepted at the time of the first issuing date.*

The acceptance of offer cut-off date for the original ballot was 25 October 2014. By that date, 719 offers (1,438 attendance passes) had been accepted.

3. *The total number of ballots that were declined and then reissued to any waiting list.*

A total of 922 people declined their offer for a double pass from the original ballot draw. A further nine individuals declined a subsequent offer for passes. All of the declined passes were offered to people on the ballot waitlist, which was drawn at the time of the original ballot. Attendance pass re-allocations to those on the waitlist were made in sequential order, moving down the list.

4. *The total number of ballots that were actually used at the commemorations ie: numbers issued versus attendance.*

The ballot process was complete by 1 April 2015, when all 2,030 seats had been allocated. At the time of the closing of the commemorative site (approximately

3.00am on 25 April) attendance pass barcode scanning data indicated that 1,965 of those pass holders attended the commemoration. No further public entrance to the site was permitted after this time. In addition, a small number of assisted mobility attendance pass holders may not have been scanned.

5. *The total number of government officials ballots that were issued and also how many attended in a government capacity.*

No New Zealand attendance passes from the ballot were used for the official party. The official party of New Zealand representatives was made up from the VIP allocation of 350 passes. Those 350 passes were for official guests, representatives of Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, and other attending countries. The New Zealand official party totalled 19 individuals. These numbers do not include staff from the New Zealand Defence Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Police and other agencies and contractors who were organising the commemoration.


6. *The full process of being able to obtain a ballot to attend this historic event.*

Those interested in attending the Anzac Day 2015 commemorations at Gallipoli were required to register in the New Zealand ballot (either online or by mail). The registration period commenced on 15 November 2013, and ended on 31 January 2014. The ballot was publicised in print, on radio and on the internet. The random-draw ballot was conducted in March 2014 by Ticketek. KPMG audited the ballot procedures. Those whose names were drawn were notified on 31 March 2014.

Immediately following the primary ballot draw, there was a second random draw to establish a wait list. The people who were in the second draw were those who had entered the ballot and who also elected to be placed on the wait list should they be unsuccessful in the primary ballot draw. Any passes that were declined or forfeited were automatically re-allocated, in order, to the next person on the wait list until all passes were allocated. The passes provided for children of Gallipoli veterans were awarded to that group in the order they appeared on the wait list. The Ballot Rules and Terms and Conditions are attached for your information.

I trust this fully satisfies your request for official information.

Yours sincerely


for **G.R. SMITH**
Commodore, RNZN
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Gallipoli Ballot Rules and Terms and Conditions.