



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2024-5131

4 October 2024

James

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 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