

OIA-2016-2461

26 May 2016

Kyle Sutherland

fyi-request-3727-72f35f7e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Sutherland

I refer to your email of 8 March 2016 to the Minister of Police requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

...the total cost incurred to the taxpayer of all Police, Royal New Zealand Airforce and any other government resources used in the annual cannabis aerial recovery operation in the top of the South and West Coast dated 7 March 2016, in which 9,000 cannabis plants were recovered.

The New Zealand Police transferred your request, in part, to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) for response on 6 May 2016.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) provided an NH90 helicopter and personnel in support of the NZ Police for the recovery of cannabis plants in the Tasman and West Coast regions during February and March 2016 respectively.

The marginal cost of NH90 helicopter flying for the operation was \$52,800. This includes the cost of transit to and from the area of operation (out of RNZAF Base Ohakea). This cost is based upon a per flying hour rate for direct costs only. Direct costs include fuel, Airways charges, equipment and spares, consumables, satellite and communications costs, plus food, travel and other sundry crew costs. Aircrew base salaries, allowances, and base facilities costs are not included.

In respect of RNZAF support staff costs for the operation, including person hours, I decline to provide this information in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, as it is not collected or held, therefore cannot be provided without a substantial research and collation effort. Pursuant to section 18B of the OIA, I have considered whether consulting with you may assist in removing the reason for the refusal but I do not believe this will result in a different outcome.

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

Yours sincerely



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