



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

OIA-2021-4344

10 May 2022

Fi

fyi-request-18838-8733da4a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Fi

I refer to your request of 10 March 2022 via the FYI website seeking information on the use of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) ships or aircraft *to transport any New Zealand citizen, as a passenger, from the "Pacific Islands" region back to New Zealand between 1 Jan 2018 and 1 January 2022. Excluding NZDF, police, and emergency medical or disaster relief efforts personnel.* Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As noted in the email to you of 5 April 2022, NZDF aircraft are also used to transport New Zealand Government officials, their staff, and other VIPs (for example foreign government officials and dignitaries) when suitable commercial options are unavailable. Members of the NZDF and their families may also travel on scheduled Royal New Zealand Air Force flights if there is space available. Excluding these flights, and the ones you had mentioned in your request, the following table provides information on the relevant flights.

Date	Reason for travel
14 Jan 2018	Return to NZ of children on a military family exchange scheme in New Caledonia.
21 Mar 2018	Transport of passengers from Fiji for commemorations.
13 Jan 2019	Return to NZ of children on a military family exchange scheme in New Caledonia.
10 Jan 2020	Return to NZ of children on a military family exchange scheme in New Caledonia.
11 Apr 2020	Disaster relief evacuation from Vanuatu.
18 Apr 2020	Disaster relief evacuation from Fiji.
19 Apr 2020	Disaster relief evacuation from Vanuatu.
22 Apr 2020	Disaster relief evacuation from Fiji.
28 Apr 2020	Disaster relief evacuation from Vanuatu.
3 Jun 2020	Following repatriation of Vanuatu nationals, 1 NZ citizen returned to NZ.
14 Oct 2021	Support to the Solomon Islands and Tarawa.

The flights associated with the exchange programme are authorised by the Chief of Defence Force under an arrangement between the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia and the

NZDF. All other flights were authorised by senior staff at Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand. No NZDF ships transported New Zealand citizens as described in your request.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AJ Woods', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

AJ WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF