

19 July 2023

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I refer to your email of 23 May 2023, which is being responded to under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

- 1. Is MFAT aware of any assets (including aircraft) or personnel of other countries that had been or were deployed in NZ on March 15, 2019, which required the authority of the NZ Prime Minister, or for the Prime Minister to be consulted?*
- 2. What were those assets or personnel and when were they deployed (date and time)?*
- 3. What was the purpose?*
- 4. Is MFAT aware of any foreign assets (including aircraft) or personnel requiring the authority of the Prime Minister prior to their arrival in NZ which have been deployed in the past five years?*
- 5. Regarding such assets, if any, please provide a breakdown of when those assets have been deployed in the last five years after authorisation of the PM, and what the purpose was.*

On 21 June 2023 the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 20 working days to 20 July 2023.

I understand that the New Zealand Police have provided you with a response to questions 1-3 of your request, and note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) does not hold any additional information relating to these parts of your request.

Regarding the remainder of your request, please find a response below:

***4. Is MFAT aware of any foreign assets (including aircraft) or personnel requiring the authority of the Prime Minister prior to their arrival in NZ which have been deployed in the past five years?***

Yes, foreign assets (including aircraft) requiring the authority of the Prime Minister prior to their arrival in New Zealand have been deployed in the past five years. Some of these assets have received bespoke approval by the Prime Minister prior to their arrival in New Zealand, pursuant to sections 9 and 10 of the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987. Others are the subject of annual diplomatic clearances, which are approved by the Prime Minister for certain categories of state aircraft.

**5. Regarding such assets, if any, please provide a breakdown of when those assets have been deployed in the last five years after authorisation of the PM, and what the purpose was.**

A response to this part of your request is attached as Appendix 1.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Appendix 1**

Visit Dates	Country	Vessel / Aircraft	Platform Type	Platform Name	Purpose of Visit	Port / Airfield	Remarks
<b>2023</b>							
8 Jan - 09 Apr	France	Vessel	Surveillance Patrol Ship	VENDEMIARE	Technical Maintenance.	Auckland	No helicopter for this visit
12 - 23 May	United Kingdom	Vessel	OPV	HMS SPEY	To strengthen the Royal Navy / Royal New Zealand Navy relationship through Defence engagement activities and to conduct a rotation of HMS SPEY's crew while in port.	Auckland Wellington	
<b>2022</b>							
31 May - 03 June	France	Vessel	Oceanic Patrol Vessel	D'ENTRECASTEAUX	Undertake a routine stop-over.	Wellington	
29 May - 07 June	Qatar	Aircraft	C-17		To collect NZDF military artillery equipment and ammunition for onward transportation to the UK in order to facilitate the training of Ukrainian military personnel.	Ohakea	
13 -18 July	France	Vessel	Surveillance Patrol Ship	VENDEMIARE	Undertake a routine visit to Auckland.	Auckland	
8-11 Nov	ROK	Vessel	Auxiliary	HANSANDO DAECHEONG	Part of the Cruise Training Task Group's (CTTG) programme of training and international goodwill calls.	Auckland	
14 - 19 Dec	France	Vessel	Oceanic Patrol Vessel	D'ENTRECASTEAUX	Routine Visit.	Auckland	

Visit Dates	Country	Vessel / Aircraft	Platform Type	Platform Name	Purpose of Visit	Port / Airfield	Remarks
<b>2021</b>							
05 - 09 Aug	Canada	Vessel	Frigate	HMCS CALGARY	To conduct military diplomacy activities and joint exercises with the RNZN. The visit will support the introduction into service of HMNZS Aotearoa and participate in air operations exercises, including P3 Orion aircraft and helicopter sorties.	Auckland	Is able to carry a helicopter
26 Nov - 01 Dec	United States	Vessel	Destroyer	USS HOWARD	Undertake a number of representational and training activities in furtherance of the maritime bilateral security relationship with the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN).	Wellington	Embarked Helicopter
13 - 20 Dec	United States	Vessel	United States Coast Guard Cutter	POLAR STAR	The Polar Star is en-route to Antarctica for its annual visit.	Wellington Lyttelton	
<b>2020</b>							
17 Jan - 18 Apr	France	Vessel	Surveillance Patrol Ship	VENDEMIARE	Routine Maintenance.	Auckland	
31 Jan - 5 Feb	France	Vessel	Oceanic Patrol Vessel	D'ENTRECASTEAUX	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Napier	
27 Feb - 01 Mar	United States	Vessel	United States Coast Guard Cutter	POLAR STAR	The POLAR STAR is returning from its annual visit to Antarctica.	Wellington	
26 May - 01 Jun	Chile	Vessel	Frigates	CNS CAPTAIN PRATCNS ALMIRANTE LATORRE	Refuel during their delivery voyage from Australia to Chile.	Auckland	

Visit Dates	Country	Vessel / Aircraft	Platform Type	Platform Name	Purpose of Visit	Port / Airfield	Remarks
<b>2019</b>							
15 - 20 Jan	UK	Vessel	Frigate	MONTROSE	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Auckland	
10 - 14 Feb	France	Vessel	Surveillance Patrol Ship	VENDEMAIRE	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Auckland	
23 Feb	United States	Aircraft	B52 Overflight		Overflight only - Wings over Wairarapa air show.	Non-applicable	
18 - 22 Feb	United States	Vessel	United States Coast Guard Cutter	POLAR STAR	The POLAR STAR is returning from its annual visit to Antarctica.	Wellington	
19 - 23 Jul	Chile	Vessel	Training Ship (Sails)	ESMERALDA	The ESMERALDA will start her 64th training cruise on 9 June 2019 ending 8 December 2019. The ESMERALDA will call on several ports on her cruise around the world including to Auckland between 19 to 23 July 2019.	Auckland	
12-16 Jul	France	Vessel	Patrol Boat	LA GLORIEUSE	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Wellington	
15 - 20 Aug	France	Vessel	Oceanic Patrol Vessel	D'ENTRECASTEAUX	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Auckland	
4 - 7 Sept	Japan	Vessel	Cadet Training Ship Destroyer	JS KASHIMA JS INAZUMA	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Auckland	The JS INAZUMA has an embarked helicopter
26 - 30 Oct	PRC	Vessel	Training Vessel	QI JIGUANG	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Wellington	

Visit Dates	Country	Vessel / Aircraft	Platform Type	Platform Name	Purpose of Visit	Port / Airfield	Remarks
<b>2018</b>							
8 - 23 Jun	PRC	Aircraft	IL76 Transport aircraft		The purpose of the visit is to participate in Exercise Skytrain at the invitation of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.	Whenuapai	
9 - 13 Aug	France	Vessel	Patrol Boat	LA MOQUEUSE	The purpose of the visit is for military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Auckland	
13 - 17 Dec	France	Vessel	Oceanic Patrol Vessel	D'ENTRECASTEAUX	Military diplomacy and representational purposes.	Auckland	