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Irene King
Chief Executive
Aviation Industry Association of New Zealand
PO Box 2096
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Irene King


Thank you for your request, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following:
'It would be beneficial to have a transparent understanding of how military helicopters are tasked and deployed. A case in point is the replenishment of Stevens Island by the RNZAF when this is normally a task undertaken by Helipro. I would like some words that make the helicopter operators comfortable about when the RNZAF is to be used (and may put this on our website).'

The NZDF Statement of Intent, agreed to by both the NZDF and Government, provides for inter-departmental/agency collaboration by which NZDF assets can be made available for a range of support services to the Government and the community. Under these provisions, other Government departments can request the use of NZDF assets, which will normally be accepted if the asset is available and the task is consistent with the NZDF's operational capabilities. While the NZDF will provide support to other Government departments and agencies, support would not normally be provided to a commercial entity where another commercial company can provide the service.

In the Stevens Island case the Department of Conservation requested helicopter and ship assistance and the RNZAF and RNZN were assigned the task.

I trust this answers your request.

Yours sincerely


R.R. JONES
Lieutenant General
Chief of Defence Force 