



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

OIA-2025-5333

22 May 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 7 April 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning HMNZS Manawanui. The various parts of your request are addressed below:

*How many OIA requests has NZDF received relating to the Manawanui, including the sinking, since 6 October 2024? Please provide me with a copy of all these OIA requests and your responses.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) received 36 requests for information relating to HMNZS Manawanui from 6 October to the date of your request. These requests and their responses are at Enclosure 1. Where the text of the request is not included in the response it is provided immediately before it in the enclosure. Some responses are not signed letters, and are email replies to the requests. Where indicated, names and contact details are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) to protect privacy.

*What ports (on what dates) did the Manawanui visit during that last voyage?*

This information was provided to you in our response dated 2 April.

*When did the Manawanui leave Auckland on its final trip (i.e. leading up to the sinking)?*

*How long was the Manawanui in Samoan waters before the sinking and what work was it undertaking in that time?*

*How many crew were on board at the time of the sinking?*

*Were there any media staff on board the Manawanui on that last voyage and if so from what media organisation(s)?*

*How many regular Manawanui crew were on the ship on 5 October 2024?*

*A news story reported that "The 75 crew and passengers on board, includ[ed] seven civilians from scientific agencies and four foreign military personnel." How many people were on board the Manawanui on 5 October who were not regular crew?*

The information relating to these parts of your request is contained the report of the Court of Inquiry into the loss of HMNZS Manawanui. This is available on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/MAN-COI-ROP-FINAL-31-Mar-25\\_Redacted-v2.pdf](https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/MAN-COI-ROP-FINAL-31-Mar-25_Redacted-v2.pdf)

*Of the seven civilians from scientific agencies, which scientific agencies was this and how many people came from each; and how many of them were of which non-New Zealand nationality?*

*Were there any other civilians on board (besides the seven) and if so, how many and from what agencies/companies? How many of them were of which non-New Zealand nationality?*

*Were there NZDF personnel on board besides the Manawanui crew and, if so, how many and from what service and units?*

*And for the four foreign military personnel, which country(ies) were they from?*

On board HMNZS Manawanui at the time of the sinking were seven civilians. Three civilians were from GNS New Zealand, and four from Metservice New Zealand. Their nationalities are not available. 19 NZDF personnel were on board HMNZS Manawanui who were not crew. More information about this is contained in the Court of Inquiry report. Providing the details of the roles and units of deployed personnel would reveal operational doctrine and methodology if released. This is therefore withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA as making it available would be likely to prejudice the security and defence of New Zealand. Of the four foreign military personnel on board, two were Tongan, One was Fijian, and one was from Vanuatu.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosure:**

1. OIA requests and responses





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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5173

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 15 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*Was the HMNZS Manawanui using any type of biofuel at the time of the incident? If so: a) What specific type(s) of biofuel was being used? b) What was the ratio of biofuel to conventional fuel? c) When was the use of biofuel initiated on this vessel? If biofuel was in use: a) Was this part of a trial or ongoing program? b) What were the objectives of using biofuel on the Manawanui?*

*Has there been any indication that the use of biofuel, if applicable, may have contributed to the incident that led to the sinking? If so, please provide details.*

*Are there any reports or assessments related to the performance or safety of biofuel use on the Manawanui or other NZDF vessels?*

*If biofuel was not in use on the Manawanui, are there any plans to trial or implement biofuel use on this class of vessel or other NZDF ships in the future?*

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>



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OIA-2024-5175

14<sup>th</sup> November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 8 October 2024 to the Minister of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA): *information on the steps being taken to assess and mitigate the environmental damage, contain the oil spill, and support the affected communities*. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

The priority of the NZDF and the primary avenue of support to Samoa has been managing any environmental damage resulting from the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information about the ongoing recovery effort is being proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information that you requested is publicly available.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>





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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5176

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

@nzme.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 17 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information:

*Did the HMNZS Manawanui encounter any mechanical, electrical or technical issues enroute from Devonport to Samoa during its recent journey to conduct surveying work off the southern coast of Upolu. If so, I request all communications, including but not limited to emailed updates or text messages from the captain, commanding officer, or bridge officer of the HMNZS Manawanui to NZDF staff in New Zealand which relate to these issues.*

*I request a copy of the most recent maintenance report or survey report for the HMNZS Manawanui, including but not limited to information about any detected deficiencies, and or remedial mechanical/electrical work undertaken during the last survey.*

*I request copies of all emailed communications between the captain, commanding officer, or bridge officer on the HMNZS Manawanui and between staff at NZDF in New Zealand between 3pm Saturday 5 October and 7pm Sunday 6 October. This should include but not be limited to any information regarding any mechanical, electrical, or technical issues onboard the HMNZS Manawanui just prior to the vessel's grounding.*

*I request all communication between crew on the HMNZS Manawanui and the Rescue Coordination Centre on Saturday 5 October and Sunday 6 October.*

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF





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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5168

OIA-2024-5187

*gma*  
November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your emails of 13 October 2024 to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and 1 November 2024 to the Office of the Prime Minister requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *Why Manawanui, a naval hydrographic vessel was in foreign waters? If it was under contract? What were the terms?* Your request sent to the Office of the Prime Minister was transferred to the NZDF in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>



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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5165

7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

James  
fyi-request-28733-64030082@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

I refer to your email of 11 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*Country and rank/position of any foreign military/intelligence service personnel on board the HMS Manawanui at the time the ship struck the reef.*

*Confirmation of any shipping containers on board, if so what was the contents?*

*Confirmation of any anchor drag, if so how long in terms of distance and time?*

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>





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OIA-2024-5153

OIA-2024-5158

5th November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your emails of 7 and 9 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the following information:

*any and all communication within the Navy and/or NZDF that refers to the state of the engines of the Manawanui prior to the vessel sailing. Was there discussion or concern raised in any forum about the vessel's engines and the possibility the Manawanui should not put to sea due to engine problems? If so, I would like communication related to engine issues.*

*Were there non-Defence Force people on-board Manawanui at the time of the grounding? If so, who were they and what are their roles? Was the Captain's wife on board at the time?*

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>



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OIA-2024-5152

5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

@stuff.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 7 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*Both internal and external communications in the 48 hours pre and post HMNZS Manawanui sinking in Samoa, not limited to, but including emails, text messages, briefings and any other communications.*

*Any briefings about the HMNZS Manawanui before it departed Auckland and then subsequent briefing after it had left Auckland.*

*The dynamic positioning ticket briefing to staff (if one existed).*

*A list of repairs conducted on the HMNZS Manawanui in the last 12 months.*

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

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Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5121

5th November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

@stuff.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 7 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding any issues with the HMNZS Manawanui being able to operate produced in the two weeks before Sunday, October 6, 2024.
- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding the HMNZS Manawanui's tasking for Saturday, October 5, 2024, produced in the week before Sunday, October 6, 2024.
- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding the Manawanui running aground and capsizing, from midday Saturday, October 5, 2024 and Monday, October 7, 2024.
- Correspondence between NZDF executive staff, chief of navy and his office, joint forces staff, and Minister Judith Collins and her office, regarding the HMNZS Manawanui, and its running aground and capsizing, from midday Saturday, October 5, 2024 to 1pm Sunday, October 6, 2024.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF





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Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2024-5150

5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 6 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *any communications to and between the Minister of Defence and/or the NZDF regarding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui, such as text messages or emails, including the Minister and/or NZDF's initial response to such communication.*

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. The requested information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5149

31 October 2024

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 6 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *the name of the person who left the sinking HMNZS Manawanui last*

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. The requested information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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New Zealand Defence Force  
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Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2024-5121

5th November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

@stuff.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 7 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding any issues with the HMNZS Manawanui being able to operate produced in the two weeks before Sunday, October 6, 2024.
- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding the HMNZS Manawanui's tasking for Saturday, October 5, 2024, produced in the week before Sunday, October 6, 2024.
- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding the Manawanui running aground and capsizing, from midday Saturday, October 5, 2024 and Monday, October 7, 2024.
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A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>



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Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5155

7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

lati lati

fyi-request-28702-4bc1a769@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear lati lati

I refer to your email of 7 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*all information about what the HMNZS Manawanui was doing in Samoa's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in September and October 2024. Please include all planning documents relating to the Manawanui's mission and activities, and any correspondence related to these between the Ministry of Defence and the following:*

- 1. New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.*
- 2. The National Assessments Bureau.*

You amended your request on 9 October to include:

- 2. The Government of Samoa.*
- 3. Any other New Zealand government ministries and departments.*

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

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OIA-2024-5169

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 8 October 2024 to the Minister of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

*Will retired Judge Robert Fisher be a part of the Court of Inquiry into the Navy ship Manawanui sinking 5/10/24? (Given the fact he has been an appointed judge in Ssmoa[sic].)*

*What are the reasons for a power outage on an uninsured Navy ship which could prevent the equipment from warning the ship against sailing into shallow water?*

*Who trained Captain Yvonne Gray to operate the specialized equipment to navigate the seabed?*

*Are there back up generators on board our NZDF ships?*

Details of the composition of the Court of Inquiry and information concerning the loss of the ship is publicly available on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

As a Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui, information is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>



## Ministerial Services

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 November 2024 12:19 p.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services; @Media  
**Subject:** HMNZS Manawanui OIA  
**Categories:** s.9(2)(a)

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Kia ora,

I'm a reporter at the NZ Herald in Auckland writing to request the following under the Official Information Act.

- All communications between Babcock and the Royal NZ Navy (RNZN) / the NZ Defence Force (NZDF) regarding HMNZS Manawanui in August, September and October 2024.
- All minutes, briefings and reports regarding the maintenance of HMNZS Manawanui in 2024.


Please confirm receipt of this request and let me know if anything requires clarifying. Twenty working days from today is Tuesday 3 December 2024.

Regards,

s.9(2)(a)

**REPORTER**

M s.9(2)(a)  
E s.9(2)(a)@nzherald.co.nz

 **The New Zealand Herald**

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## Ministerial Services

**From:** s.9(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 November 2024 12:39 p.m.  
**To:** @Media; Ministerial Services  
**Subject:** HMNZS Manawanui OIA 2

**Categories:** s.9(2)(a)

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Kia ora,

I'm a reporter at the NZ Herald in Auckland writing to request the following under the Official Information Act.

- What tests were conducted by HMNZS Manawanui and its crew after leaving Devonport Naval Base on September 28, 2024 and before leaving NZ waters for Samoa?
- What were the results of the tests?
- Were any concerns raised after the first round of tests on September 28 near the Rangitoto Channel? If so, what were the concerns and who raised them?
- What was the reason for the second round of tests that evening / overnight off Northland? What were the results of the tests?
- Were all of Manawanui's thrusters / propulsion units fully functional when the ship left DNB on September 28? If not, which thrusters / azipods / bow thrusters were not fully functional, and what issues were reported with them?
- What issues were reported with Manawanui's thrusters / propulsion units before its final voyage?
- Were all four of its main generators, and its axillary generators, fully functional when it left DNB on its final voyage? If not, please specify which were not fully functional, and what issues they were reported as having.
- Were both of HMNZS Manawanui's AC motors (driving its two main azimuth propellers) fully functional when it left DNB on September 28? If not, what issues did they have?
- What issues were reported with diesel contamination or corrosion of Manawanui's tanks in the years before it sank?
- Before Manawanui left on its final voyage, was the usual check by RNZN staff performed on the vessel? If not, why not, and what checks were carried out by Babcock instead?
- Who carried out the final check of Manawanui following its last maintenance period, and what issues were raised in this final check?
- What gearbox issues did Manawanui / its crew / RNZN staff report with the vessel in the year before it sank?
- Who made the final decision for Manawanui to sail on September 28?

Please confirm receipt of this request and let me know if anything requires clarifying. Twenty working days from today is Tuesday 3 December 2024.

Regards,

s.9(2)(a)

REPORTER



M: s.9(2)(a)  
E: s.9(2)(a)@nzherald.co.nz



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## Ministerial Services

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 November 2024 1:01 p.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services; @Media  
**Subject:** HMNZS Manawanui OIA 3  
**Categories:** s.9(2)(a)

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Kia ora,

I'm a reporter at the NZ Herald in Auckland writing to request the following under the Official Information Act.

- An audio file copy and transcription of the 'black box' recording from the bridge of HMNZS Manawanui on October 5, 2024, before and after it struck the reef.
- A digital copy of the HMNZS Manawanui's navigation record book covering the entirety of its final voyage from September 28, 2024, to October 5, 2024.

Please confirm receipt of this request and let me know if anything requires clarifying. Twenty working days from today is Tuesday 3 December 2024.

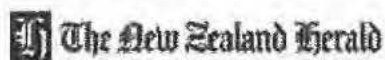
Regards,

s.9(2)(a)

### REPORTER

M: s.9(2)(a)

E: s.9(2)(a)@nzherald.co.nz



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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5191  
OIA-2024-5194  
OIA-2024-5195

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

s.9(2)(a)

@nzherald.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to three of your emails of 5 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about HMNZS Manawanui and circumstances around the loss of the ship in October. Your request for information on public relations and media strategy for the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui will be addressed in a separate response.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

The Court of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui is ongoing. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>





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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5196

29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 5 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*All minutes, reports and briefings regarding the NZDF / RNZN's public relations and media strategy / approach to the sinking of the HMNZS Manawanui.*

*The minutes of all meetings involving NZDF public relations staff related to PR strategy and approach around the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui.*

*All communications between Commander Yvonne Gray and the Chief of Navy in October, 2024.*

*All communications between Commander Yvonne Gray and the Chief of the Defence Force in October, 2024.*

*All communications between the Chief of Navy and the Defence Minister in October, 2024.*

*All communications between the Chief of the Defence Force and the Defence Minister in October, 2024.*

*The minutes of all meetings involving the Chief of the Defence Force and the Defence Minister in October, 2024.*

Where a part of your request is for communications, you subsequently refined it to be: *communications re HMZNS Manawanui, and the Court of Inquiry into the sinking.*

The New Zealand Defence Force did not develop a *media strategy / approach* in response to the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Accordingly there are no minutes from any meetings.

While the Court of Inquiry into the sinking is ongoing, communications about the sinking involving Commander Yvonne Gray, the Chief of Defence Force, the Chief of Navy and the Minister of Defence are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court. The NZDF intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

The last part of your request concerning minutes of meetings was transferred to the Office of the Minister of Defence in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5204

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

s.9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 4 November 2024 to the Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), copies of the following documents:

1. *Briefing – 2024 Half Year Economic and Fiscal Update Specific Fiscal Risks for Ministerial Services Portfolio – received 16 October 2024*
2. *Monthly Update to the Chief of Staff on Staffing – October 2024 – received 14 – October 2024*
3. *Prime Minister's Weekly Brief, 15 October 2024*
4. *Op RESOLUTION – NZDF options (removing containers and stopping leaks) –15 October 2024*
5. *14 October 2024: Chief Executive Appointment (Cabinet paper taken jointly with the Minister for the Public Service)*

Part 4 of your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA. A copy of this briefing is enclosed. Where indicated, information is withheld in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; section 6(b)(i) to avoid prejudice to the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or agency of such a Government; and section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosure:**

1. Dot Point Brief for the Prime Minister on Options for Container Removal and Leak Stopping for Operation Resolution, 15 October 2024

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*Dot Point Brief for the Prime Minister on Options for Container Removal and Leak Stopping for Op RESOLUTION 15 October 2024*

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**Overview**

- The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), as lead agency, has been directed to provide options on removing the three 10ft containers from HMNZS MANAWANUI that are lodged in various parts of the reef off of the south coast of Samoa, no later than commencement of CHOGM on 21 October 2024. The NZDF has also been directed to provide options on stopping leaks from HMNZS MANAWANUI.
- The planning for these directed tasks has been primarily conducted by the NZDF in order to meet the rapid timelines, s. 6(a)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Input from the scientific community (from MBIE and NIWA) is being considered in parallel with course of action development, environmental impact considerations are provided with each option.
- Consultation with the Government of Samoa is needed before any plan is enacted, to ensure they are fully briefed on the benefits and risks and give their consent to the course of action.

**Container Removal**

- Two of the three containers are empty, with the third containing approximately 3000kgs of food. The containers are not watertight and have sustained some structural damage.
- Two primary options have been planned, each with a subset as outlined below:
- **Surface Removal.** Two surface removal options have been considered and these are:
  - Partial flotation and tow to the beach by commercial contractor (**this is the preferred option and will be taken forward for development and execution**).
  - Partial flotation and tow to the open ocean for recovery by RNZN or commercial vessel. (**not progressed for the reasons given below**).
  - General Considerations:
    - For bringing containers ashore, Samoan Customs and Quarantine Officials yet to determine biosecurity disposal of food items in the remaining container – engagement is ongoing with High Commission in Apia indicating this can be approved with their assistance.
    - The commercial provider would handle all requirements of getting the containers off of the reef and safely ashore, with the NZDF responsible for movement from the beach to final location and assesses one day for preparation, and one day per container to remove.



- For the deeper-water option, the southern coast of Samoa is not well sheltered from the prevailing weather conditions making it unlikely that conditions will allow CANTERBURY, or possibly any other commercial vessel, to conduct crane operations to recover the containers once they are seaward and out of the relative shelter of the reef.
- Environmental Impact Considerations:
  - Physical damage to the reef risks:
  - Damage arising from moving the container, or accessing the container, including placing lifting equipment under or around the container.
  - Risk of damage to the reef or the biodiversity of the reef from collision and/or contact from vessels working near the reef edge.
  - Structural failure of the container, increasing damage to the reef including its biodiversity through need to collect larger number of parts.
- Pollution risks:
  - Dispersal of container contents through failure or leakage of the container. This could lead to decomposing food, multiple types of waste, inc. plastic waste entering the reef washing up on the shore.
  - Complete or partial structural failure of containers leading to parts of the container drifting in the reef, possible contaminants from container insulation.
  - Any refrigeration materials being exposed to the environment.
- Risks:
  - Commercial Health and Safety procedures are not yet known for both options.
  - Reputational risk if further damage to the reef is caused during removal due to surf and breakers slamming containers back into the reef.
  - The weather conditions are a risk with this option as they may not be conducive for recovery if successfully floated and removed to seaward.
  - For a shore recovery, the option would be wholly commercial, and NZDF would lose tactical control of the task, and the commercial operator would use their own procedures and have to plan to minimise further damage to the reef.
- Feasibility:
  - Commercial provider has advised both tasks are feasible within current capability, noting impacts from weather and potential damage to the reef in the process.

- This is the same provider that recovered MANAWANUI's RHIBS (small boats) from the beach s. 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
  - Feasibility of recovering the containers to seaward is unlikely due to lack of shelter from prevailing conditions.
- **Aerial removal** utilising either an NZDF NH-90 helicopter s. 6(b)(i) [REDACTED] (not progressed due to assessed high risk outlined below).
  - Considerations:
    - NH-90 maximum underslung lift is 2400kgs. s. 6(b)(i) [REDACTED]
      - Dry container assessed as approximately 1200kgs, with the food refrigeration container assessed as 2000kgs (with 3000kgs of food within). Additional water weight on initial lift is up to 7500kgs.
    - s. 6(b)(i) [REDACTED]
  - Environmental Impact Considerations:
    - Physical damage to the reef risks:
      - Damage arising from moving the container, or accessing the container, including placing lifting equipment under or around the container.
      - Structural failure of the container, increasing damage to the reef including its biodiversity through need to collect larger number of parts.
    - Pollution risks:
      - Dispersal of container contents through failure or leakage of the container. This could lead to decomposing food, multiple types of waste, inc. plastic waste entering the reef washing up on the shore.
      - Complete or partial structural failure of containers leading to parts of the container drifting in the reef, possible contaminants from container insulation.
      - Any refrigeration materials being exposed to the environment.
  - Risks:
    - This is a complex air operation over water, which needs to consider sea-state, wind, and tide conditions on the day the recovery is attempted.
    - The container weights are negatively amplified by water and/or sand/silt from time on the reef, which need to be factored into lift

calculations. There is also the potential for the containers, especially the one which still has food in it, to be structurally damaged such that they could break apart in the air, further damaging the reef on impact, or causing a safety incident for the helicopter while in flight.

- The compressed timelines for execution place additional risk to ensure all factors are considered and understood prior to execution.
- Risk for NZDF NH-90 option assessed as **HIGH** due to the lift weight exceeding operating limitations of the airframe.
- s. 6(b)(i)

- Feasibility:

- NZDF feasibility assessment is **LOW** based on the potential weight of the containers with water weight considerations being in excess of the NH-90 safe airworthiness limitations.
- s. 6(b)(i)

- **The next steps in container removal:**

- The option to contract local company to float and tow the containers to the beach will now be progressed.
- The next step is for this option to be socialised with both the Government of Samoa and the Ship Owners' Club Surveyor.
- Subject to all parties' acceptance of this course of action, the NZDF will execute this plan.

### ***Leak Stopping***



- Consistent reporting has seen a small leak evident from the engineering vents in the funnel, above the engineering spaces. The exact nature of what comprises this leak is still to be determined but could be from residual diesel fuel in the pipework, or remnants of the liquid in MANAWANUI's engine-room bilge which is slowly being released. The slow leak is independently assessed by the International Tanker Oil Pollution Federation (ITOPF) representative as a **LOW** risk to the environment.
- Consideration into stemming the flow or plugging the leak has been on-going. It is not as simple as purely 'plugging' the leak, as this could cause the fuel to divert to multiple other release points elsewhere in the funnel exhaust casing or ship, resulting in the same release of fuel from different points. Advice from both the Surveyor and ITOPF representatives on scene is that the discharge may be better being mitigated than rather than an attempt made to 'plug' it.
- Mitigation would include continuous monitoring (already underway) to determine if the volume increases, decreases, or remains steady, as well as continuous beach patrols to observe conditions on the ground.



- s. 6(a)  
[REDACTED]
- Given the potential for more serious discharges or environmental impacts if the leak is plugged, the Samoan Government would also need to consent to this decision and be fully informed of the potential risks.
- The Surveyor continues his assessment to develop options for the removal of the remaining fuel and liquids in MANAWANUI, as well as reef assessment and potential recovery requirements. This will take time and involves the Ship Owners' Club utilising commercial means, including tenders and contracts to subject matter experts, familiar with recovery and rectification from incidents of this nature.  
s. 9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]
- A second oil release from the aft section has been observed and confirmed to come from the Port thruster oil tank vent. Divers are preparing to bag the identified vent to cease oil release. This is assessed as a low-risk option.
- The NZDF team on the ground, and back in New Zealand are in continuous contact with the Surveyor, Ships Owners' Club and ITOPF on the way ahead, and are assisting the industry experts in what's required for the resolution of this incident.
- The Marine Pollution Action Committee met this morning, 15 October, and the ITOPF representative attended and briefed Samoan officials from an independent perspective. While we await feedback from the meeting, it is anticipated that this brief will assist to alleviate concerns of pollution and long-term impact to the environment. The ITOPF representative has advised that terminology-wise it is a *fuel sheen on the water*, and not an *oil slick*.
- NZDF personnel remain on standby in New Zealand to respond if the situation deteriorates with a major spill. However, the team on the ground continue daily beach surveys with local authorities, and still have not found any evidence of pollution or fuel spill impact on the shoreline. Flotsam continues to be collected as it makes landfall.
- Maritime New Zealand advised yesterday that personal protective equipment (PPE) stores requested last week be cancelled due to oil flow and drift modelling showing that it is unlikely to be required. They have additionally advised that the spill-response containers and majority of the bulk equipment embarked in HMNZS CANTERBURY, is not disembarked in Samoa, and returns to New Zealand undisturbed. This is based on current modelling of what has been observed thus far, and future changes anticipated in environmental conditions. This recommendation has had ITOPF and Surveyor engagement.

### ***Considerations and Recommendations***

- The NZDF, having considered the options presented for container removal, will focus on executing the commercial option that sees the containers floated and towed from the reef to shore. NZDF personnel in Samoa have been directed to communicate this option, and the associated environmental risks, to the Government of Samoa, the Surveyor, and all relevant parties, to ensure concurrence.

- This recommendation is primarily based on being the most expeditious method of container removal, however it must be noted that this option comes with the potential environmental risks noted in this brief.
- s. 9(2)(g)(i)  

- Prior to execution of this option, the plan to float and tow the containers to shore will be ratified by the Surveyor and Samoan Officials. The projected timeline for completion of removal of the three containers is being worked through. However, the contractor indicates one day of preparation is required, and one day to remove each of the containers. Assuming Government of Samoa concurrence on 16 October, and agreeable weather, the containers could be clear of the reef by 20 October.
- s. 6(a)  

- In respect to the engine room vent leak, the current advice from industry experts, and the Interagency Task Force, is to continue to monitor and mitigate, rather than plug the known leak, which risks making the situation worse. The focus from the Surveyor and ITOPF representative is on the long-term removal of the fuel-oil liquids from MANAWANUI safely in accordance with industry best-practice.

*Prepared by:*

*The Op RESOLUTION National Coordination Centre*

*Ministry of Defence*

*Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand*

*Strategic Commitments and Engagement Branch, New Zealand Defence Force*

*15 October 2024*



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

OIA-2024-5205

OIA-2024-5212

12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your emails of 15 and 16 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. How many OIA requests has NZDF received relating to the Manawanui, including the sinking, since 6 October 2024? Please provide me with a copy of each these OIA requests and your responses.*
- 2. On what date did the Manawanui leave Auckland on its final trip (i.e. leading up to the sinking)?*
- 3. What ports (on what dates) did the Manawanui visit during that last voyage?*
- 4. How long was the Manawanui in Samoan waters before the sinking and what work was it undertaking in that time?*
- 5. How many crew were on board at the the time of the sinking?*
- 6. Were there any media staff on board the Manawanui on that last voyage and if so from what media organisation(s)?*
- 1. How many regular Manawanui crew were on the ship on 5 October 2024?*
- 2. A news story reported that "The 75 crew and passengers on board, includ[ed] seven civilians from scientific agencies and four foreign military personnel." How many people were on board the Manawanui on 5 October who were not regular crew?*
- 3. Of the seven civilians from scientific agencies, which scientific agencies was this and how many people came from each; and how many of them were of which non-New Zealand nationality?*
- 4. Were there any other civilians on board (besides the seven) and if so, how many and from what agencies/companies? How many of them were of which non-New Zealand nationality?*
- 5. Were there NZDF personnel on board besides the Manawanui crew and, if so, how many and from what service and units?*
- 6. And for the four foreign military personnel, which country(ies) were they from?*

Copies of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) responses to requests for information about the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui are publicly available on the NZDF website.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/search-our-libraries/documents/?search=manawanui&document-type=Official=information&sort=relevance>



A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website.<sup>2</sup>

The Court of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui is ongoing. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The NZDF intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>



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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5217

15 Jan  
January 2025

s.9(2)(a)

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 29 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *Request a copy of all advice to minister regarding the \$360M of operating savings required in FY25/26.*
  - 1A. *What is the driver(s) of these operating cost overruns?*
  - 1B. *How much of these overruns are attributed to the PB operating costs or the Manawanui recovery & replacement.*
2. *When was this information passed to the minister of Defence?*
3. *Aside from the \$50M to be found from personnel savings, from where else will the remaining \$310M be found?*
  - 3A. *Other than taking \$50M from personnel savings, what other options were considered?*
  - 3B. *Request copies of the briefing pack & decision papers that were presented to EXCO & CDF for the specific board at which this decision was made.*
4. *Are any capabilities being reviewed for divestment. If so, which ones?*
5. *What provision has been made for pay increases for uniformed staff in FY25/26?*

The requested information concerns preparations for Budget 2025 that remain ongoing and information continues to be provided to the Minister of Defence. It is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA. In the weeks following Budget day, advice underpinning decisions is made public.

As you may be aware, work is underway on options for a new Defence Capability Plan. Information concerning any capabilities is therefore also withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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

OIA-2024-5219

17<sup>th</sup>  
December 2024

s.9(2)(a)

@stuff.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 2 December 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), a copy of the interim report from the Court of Inquiry held into the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui.

The interim report of the Court of inquiry is not authorised for release by the Chief of Navy under section 200T of the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971, as the Court of Inquiry remains ongoing. This decision is in accordance with section 6(c) of the OIA.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF



## Ministerial Services

---

**From:** Ministerial Services  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 8:27 a.m.  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]  
**Attachments:** OIA-2024-5224\_Signed-response.pdf

Good morning s.9(2)(a)

This has already been addressed.

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**  
OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



**A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND**

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 8:23 a.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Ok but I'm seeking to clarify the explanation provided.

Is it your advice that providing a response to my question about the times the crew abandoned ship are still being considered by the COI and on that basis the request is denied?

Is my understand correct or not correct?

---

**From:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Sent:** 19 December 2024 08:16  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Good morning s.9(2)(a)

An explanation of the decision has been provided.

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**



A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 8:15 a.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Noted thanks,

The links to information on the NZDF website do not address the questions I have asked which is why I've asked them.

For example, your advice to me is that my questions about the time the 1st and last crew members abandoned ship is still being considered by the COI and therefore the information cannot be released.

Is this correct as an example?

---

**From:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Sent:** 19 December 2024 08:07  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Good morning s.9(2)(a)

The response of 13 December 2024 is quite clear, but to avoid any confusion the following summary may be of assistance:

- part 1 of your request is addressed directly;
- parts 2 – 20 of your request are addressed by providing a link to information on the New Zealand Defence Force website. Where relevant information is not available it is declined for the reason provided. Specifically addressing each point of your request will not occur as details on matters being considered by the Court of Inquiry are not official information and will not be provided. Providing or not providing specific information would prejudice the undertakings of the Court of Inquiry which is why section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) has been cited.

In hindsight, specifically addressing part 21 of your request could be included and that is addressed now. The interim report of the Court of inquiry is not authorised for release by the Chief of Navy under section 200T of the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971, as the Court of Inquiry remains ongoing. No link to the interim report exists, therefore this part of your request is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

Corporate and Ministerial Services staff will be on leave from 20 December 2024 to 5 January 2025.

Regards



A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND

From: s.9(2)(a)  
Sent: Thursday, 19 December 2024 7:52 a.m.  
To: Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
Subject: Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Noted thanks,

Regarding the information I have requested, is it the case that all of my questions are denied on the basis that each question has been considered individually? or is it that 1 or more questions are denied and therefore all questions are denied?

If the later can you advise which questions are denied, and which are not debied, so I can resend an OIA request for those that are not denied?

When is your office closing for Xmas and reopening?

Thanks in advance

---

From: Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
Sent: 19 December 2024 06:59  
To: s.9(2)(a)  
Subject: RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Good morning s.9(2)(a)

With respect to your claim that NZDF have stated that all OIA requests are denied due to the potential impact on the Court of Inquiry, the New Zealand Defence Force has not stated that all requests for information concerning HMNZS Manawanui are declined.

All requests for information are considered individually, and decisions are based on the information being requested.

Regards

Corporate and Ministerial Services  
OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force  
www.nzdf.mil.nz



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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2024 3:51 p.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Hi, do you have any reply to my question about process?

Thanks so much

---

**From:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Sent:** 16 December 2024 11:01  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Good morning s.9(2)(a)

A response to your request was sent to you on Friday 13 December (attached).

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**  
OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 December 2024 10:18 a.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>; Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Info <[info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Hi again, just checking to see if you received my question and whether you will answer before closing down for Xmas.

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 13 December 2024 09:14

To: Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>; Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
Cc: Info <[info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)>  
Subject: Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Hi again, just checking to see if you received my question and whether you will answer before closing down for Xmas.

---

From: s.9(2)(a)  
Sent: 12 December 2024 12:57  
To: Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>; Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
Cc: Info <[info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)>  
Subject: Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Hi again, just checking to see if you received my question and whether you will answer before closing down for Xmas.

Adding Ombudsman so there's a record of me repeated requests that have gone unanswered.

Cheers

---

From: s.9(2)(a)  
Sent: 11 December 2024 08:44  
To: Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>; Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Hi again,

Did you receive my question that given that NZDF have stated that all OIA requests are denied due to the potential impact on the Court of Inquiry, and you are now advising that the COI will conclude EO Feb 2025, is it correct that all OIA requests will be denied on that basis, and the questions will remain unanswered until Feb-March '25?

Is this correct?

---

From: s.9(2)(a)  
Sent: 10 December 2024 09:01  
To: Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>; Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Noted thanks.

Given that NZDF have stated that all OIA requests are denied due to the potential impact on the Court of Inquiry, and you are now advising that the COI will conclude EO Feb 2025, is it correct that all OIA requests will be denied on that basis, and the questions will remain unanswered until Feb-March '25?

Is this correct?

---

From: s.9(2)(a)  
Sent: 06 December 2024 16:01

**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>; Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Noted thanks.

Given that NZDF have stated that all OIA requests are denied due to the potential impact on the Court of Inquiry, and you are now advising that the COI will conclude EO Feb 2025, is it correct to join the dots and say my OIA request will be denied on the same basis, and the questions will remain unanswered until Feb-March '25?

Is this correct?

---

**From:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Sent:** 06 December 2024 13:33  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Good afternoon s.9(2)(a)

With respect to your questions in the email below of 11:02am, the Chief of Navy has not authorised release of the interim report of the Court of Inquiry under section 200T of the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971, as the investigation remains ongoing. The Court of Inquiry process has not yet been completed.

As noted on the New Zealand Defence Force website, the final report is expected to be completed around the end of February and be released publicly by late March.

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**  
OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



**A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND**

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 December 2024 11:02 a.m.  
**To:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Ok great thanks.

Can you or Ministerial Services please advise when the initial report from the COI will be released?

According to NZDF advice in response to OIA request, the report will be released to the public on completion of the COI.



This is now complete so the report should be released.

What is the date for the release?

Thanks

s.9(2)(a)

---

**From:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** 06 December 2024 10:54  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Hi s.9(2)(a)

I can confirm that the cc'd Ministerial Services email is the contact address for the NZDF, who are best placed to respond to your request. They will respond within the timeframe set out by the Official Information Act 1982.

You can find more information about making requests under the Official Information Act here:  
<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/making-official-information-requests-guide-requesters>

Thanks,



**Ministerial and Executive Services Branch**  
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga - New Zealand Ministry of Defence  
Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, PO Box 12703, Wellington 6144, New Zealand

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 December 2024 9:12 a.m.  
**To:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to [spam@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:spam@nzdf.mil.nz) and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

Hi again, can you confirm the follow up contact details for me to follow up?

Your letter says NZDF will contact me in due course

I'd like a follow up detail please so I can follow up myself

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 05 December 2024 11:47  
**To:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Ok thanks, so is the Ministerial Services email on cc the department I should be following up with?

---

**From:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** 04 December 2024 11:42  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Kia ora s.9(2)(a)

Please see the attached response to your Official Information Act request.  
As indicated in the letter, the NZDF is the agency best placed to provide a response to your request. They will be in contact with you in due course.

Ngā mihi,



**Ministerial and Executive Services Branch**  
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga - New Zealand Ministry of Defence

Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, PO Box 12703, Wellington 6144, New Zealand

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 10:01 a.m.  
**To:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

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FMI - have I sent my request to the wrong place?

I followed the instruction on your website

If it's the wrong place can you let me know the right place? Then I'll send it to the right place.

Probably be quicker for me and save you all the work as I'm sure you must have a lot of these to get through

Let me know ASAP please

Cheers

s.9(2)(a)

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 04 December 2024 09:29  
**To:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]



Great thanks for letting me know

What does that actually mean? Are you going to send my request to someone else?

---

**From:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** 04 December 2024 09:27  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui [unclassified]

Kia ora,

Thank you for your request for official information. This will be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982, which may include transfer to a more relevant agency or Minister.

Ngā mihi,  
Ministry of Defence



**Ministerial and Executive Services Branch**  
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga - New Zealand Ministry of Defence  
  
Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, PO Box 12703, Wellington 6144, New Zealand

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 9:17 a.m.  
**To:** Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>; [c.penk@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:c.penk@ministers.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to [spam@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:spam@nzdf.mil.nz) and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

Hello, can I get an acknowledgement of my OIA request and a timeline for response

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 03 December 2024 12:08  
**To:** [Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz) <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>; [c.penk@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:c.penk@ministers.govt.nz) <[c.penk@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:c.penk@ministers.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui

Hi Defence, can I get a response to my OIA request

Cheers

s.9(2)(a)

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 01 December 2024 11:12  
**To:** [Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz) <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>; [c.penk@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:c.penk@ministers.govt.nz) <[c.penk@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:c.penk@ministers.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui



Greetings Chris,

I'm doubling up on my request for information above as, based on the way this matter has been handled thus far by NZDF and the Minister, I have very little confidence in the process.

I'm hoping that my request will be taken seriously and the information requested above will be provided in a timely manner

Nga mihi

s.9(2)(a)

---

From: s.9(2)(a)

Sent: 29 November 2024 21:53

To: [Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz) <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>

Subject: OIA regarding grounding of Manawanui

Hello,

Following the release of the interim report I request the following information

1. Please provide a link to NZ Navy abandon ship protocol
2. Where on the ship was the Commander of the vessels in the 15 minutes prior to, and up to the ships initial grounding at approx 6:15pm
3. After the order was given to abandon ship at approx 6:48pm, what was the timeline for the crew to begin and complete the physical abandon ship
4. What time was the 1<sup>st</sup> crew member able to abandon ship
5. What time was the last crew member able to abandon ship
6. Was the Commander of the vessel the last crew member to abandon ship
7. What time did the Commander of the vessel physically abandon ship
8. Whose responsibility is it to secure the ships log before abandoning ship
9. At what time was the last entry made into the ships log
10. What was the information logged into the ships log at that time
11. Is the Commander of the vessel required to check that the ships log is secure before abandoning ship
12. At what stage did the Commander of the vessel realise that the ships log was lost / unaccounted for
13. At what stage were the Navy and/or investigators advised that the ships log was lost / unaccounted for
14. Was the Commander of the vessel questioned about the ships log prior to the UK Navy's recovery of the ships log on 17 October
15. If the Commander of the vessel was questioned about the ships log prior to it's recovery on 17<sup>th</sup> October, was the Commander able to explain why the ships log had been lost
16. Was the Minister advised that the ships log was lost prior to it's recovery by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October
17. Had the NZ Navy identified the need to search for the ships log prior to it's recovery by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October
18. Were the NZ Navy searching for the ships log prior to it being recovered by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October
19. Where on the ship was the ships log found by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October
20. Why was the loss of the ships log only reported after it was recovered by the UK Navy and reported by them on 17<sup>th</sup> October
21. Please provide a link to the written interim report on the sinking of the Manawanui

Thank you in Advance

Sam

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

OIA-2024-5224

13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

s.9(2)(a)

@gmail.com

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 29 November 2024 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) on 4 December 2024 in accordance with the OIA and was duly acknowledged on 6 December 2024.

You have specifically asked for the following:

1. Please provide a link to NZ Navy abandon ship protocol
2. Where on the ship was the Commander of the vessels in the 15 minutes prior to, and up to the ships initial grounding at approx 6:15pm
3. After the order was given to abandon ship at approx 6:48pm, what was the timeline for the crew to begin and complete the physical abandon ship
4. What time was the 1<sup>st</sup> crew member able to abandon ship
5. What time was the last crew member able to abandon ship
6. Was the Commander of the vessel the last crew member to abandon ship
7. What time did the Commander of the vessel physically abandon ship
8. Whose responsibility is it to secure the ships log before abandoning ship
9. At what time was the last entry made into the ships log
10. What was the information logged into the ships log at that time
11. Is the Commander of the vessel required to check that the ships log is secure before abandoning ship
12. At what stage did the Commander of the vessel realise that the ships log was lost / unaccounted for
13. At what stage were the Navy and/or investigators advised that the ships log was lost / unaccounted for
14. Was the Commander of the vessel questioned about the ships log prior to the UK Navy's recovery of the ships log on 17 October
15. If the Commander of the vessel was questioned about the ships log prior to it's recovery on 17<sup>th</sup> October, was the Commander able to explain why the ships log had been lost
16. Was the Minister advised that the ships log was lost prior to it's recovery by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October
17. Had the NZ Navy identified the need to search for the ships log prior to it's recovery by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October



18. *Were the NZ Navy searching for the ships log prior to it being recovered by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October*
19. *Where on the ship was the ships log found by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October*
20. *Why was the loss of the ships log only reported after it was recovered by the UK Navy and reported by them on 17<sup>th</sup> October*
21. *Please provide a link to the written interim report on the sinking of the Manawanui*

A link is not available to the *NZ Navy abandon ship protocol*. Details of Royal New Zealand Navy operational procedures are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website.<sup>1</sup>

The Court of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui is ongoing. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The NZDF intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>

## Ministerial Services

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2024 10:11 a.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services  
**Subject:** FW: HMNZS Manawanui Court of Inquiry unclassified

**Categories:** s.9(2)(a)

Hi team, one for you.  
Cheers

s.9(2)(a)

Senior Communications Adviser - DPA, Defence Public Affairs  
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force  
Mobile: s.9(2)(a)  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



This media response has been provided by the New Zealand Defence Force Public Affairs team. For further information about requesting information under the Official Information Act (OIA), [visit our website](#). You have the right to request a review by the Ombudsman of this response at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2024 10:05 a.m.  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)@stuff.co.nz  
**Subject:** HMNZS Manawanui Court of Inquiry unclassified

Hi s.9(2)(a)  
Acknowledging your request, which will be forwarded to our Ministerial Services team.  
Regards

s.9(2)(a)

Senior Communications Adviser - DPA, Defence Public Affairs  
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force  
Mobile: s.9(2)(a)  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



This media response has been provided by the New Zealand Defence Force Public Affairs team. For further information about requesting information under the Official Information Act (OIA), [visit our website](#). You have the right to request a review by the Ombudsman of this response at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

**From:** s.9(2)(a)@stuff.co.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2024 7:17 a.m.  
**To:** @Media <[Media@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:Media@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:**

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to [spam@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:spam@nzdf.mil.nz) and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

Hi,

Is it possible today to get a copy of the interim report into the Manawanui sinking?  
Thanks

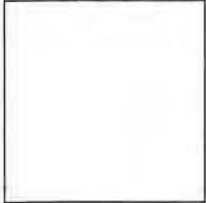
--

**s.9(2)(a)**

Senior reporter

**s.9(2)(a)**

10 Brandon Street,  
Wellington 6011







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

OIA-2024-5227

24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

s.9(2)(a)

@stuff.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 5 December 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*all correspondence, between October 4 and today between NZDF/NZ Navy and Kongsberg about Kongsberg systems on NZ Defence Force ships including the Manawanui?*

The New Zealand Defence Force holds no correspondence within the scope of your request. It is therefore refused in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as the information you have requested does not exist.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier


Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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

OIA-2024-5228

 February 2025

@tvnz.co.nz

Dear 

I refer to your email of 5 December 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*The (winning) salvage proposal for the HMNZS Manawanui. I understand the company is Pacific Seven. I am assuming the process/costs etc are contained within that document but if they are not I would like that too.*

The tender process relating to the removal of fuel and other pollutants from HMNZS Manawanui was carried out by New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) insurer, Shipowners' Club. A summary of the received tenders was provided to the NZDF for a decision.

The salvage company selected by the NZDF was Pacific 7 Limited. The tender proposals and the summary are withheld in full in accordance with section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, as making this information public would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the insurer.

The process includes a risk-based approach to removing bulk fuels, oils, and contaminants. This commenced with a simple assessable fuel tank to prove the systems and approach, then progressed to tanks which represented the highest potential for discharge. The smaller more difficult to access tanks will be assessed last, with some requiring complex approaches to gain access to tapping points within the vessel. Video monitoring systems were in place to track fuel pumping progress with divers on stand-by should a hose connection or tapping point fail.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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

OIA-2024-5235

*2nd* January 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 9 December 2024 to the Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"(...) daily medical records of all on the Manawanui, names redacted of course."*

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14 of the OIA as the nature of your request is more closely aligned with the functions of the NZDF.

Personnel medical records are withheld in full in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect privacy. The public interest in providing this information does not outweigh the reasons to withhold it in this instance.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF



## Ministerial Services

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**From:** Ministerial Services  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 March 2025 10:38 a.m.  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Good morning,

There is no update available since the release of details from the interim court of inquiry report on 29 November 2024. At that time it was stated that the Court of Inquiry itself was expected to be concluded in the first quarter of 2025.

Regards

### Corporate and Ministerial Services

OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force

[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 March 2025 8:49 a.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Cc:** Judith Collins (MIN) <[J.Collins@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:J.Collins@ministers.govt.nz)>; [judith.collins@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:judith.collins@parliament.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Hi again, was there any update you can provide on the COI and when the report will be released on the sinking of the Manawanui?

Cheers

s.9(2)(a)

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 26 March 2025 09:59  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Hi there, good morning and top of the day to you

Can you please kindly provide an update on the COI completion date? and when the report will be released to the public?

Thanks so much and have a great day

---

**From:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Sent:** 28 January 2025 10:54  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Good morning,

A response regarding the link was provided this morning. In future, multiple repeated requests for information that has already been provided will not be addressed.

There is no set time for the publication of responses on the website.

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**  
OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



**A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND**

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 January 2025 10:47 a.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Hi again, can you send me the link to the great deal of information you refer to in your OIA denials pls?

Also when will the refusal along with the questions I asked be updated on the NZDF site?

Cheers

s.9(2)(a)

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 27 January 2025 09:43  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Hello,

Yes I note that you have stopped posting updates on OIA requests re Manawanui, and that my OIA request hasnt been added to the list despite it being lodged in November 2024

I also note that 100% of the requests have been declined and that you state "a large amount of information has been released and is available on the NZDF website".

Looking at the NZDF website I can see a large amount of information there.

Can you provide me the links to the large amount of information that has been provided there?

Thanks

s.9(2)(a)

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**From:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>

**Sent:** 17 January 2025 11:05

**To:** s.9(2)(a)

**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Good morning,

A response to the request transferred from the Minister of Defence was sent to you on Monday 13 January 2025 (attached).

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**

OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force

New Zealand Defence Force

[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



**A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND**

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Friday, 17 January 2025 9:16 a.m.

**To:** Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)

**Cc:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>

**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Hi NZDF,

Can you confirm that you have had my OIA request since last year, and now that there is no issue with the wording can you advise the answer to my questions please?

Cheers

s.9(2)(a)

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)

**Sent:** 16 January 2025 12:23

**To:** Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)



Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: Re: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Ok thanks s.9(2) yes that was misleading as we have been corresponding on it for weeks but I now understand the previous advice wasnt correct.

Can you confirm please whether you are suggestion that I should now resubmit my questions because I've been given the correct email? I dont think this is what you mean as you've said repeatedly that you've sent them on to NZDF who I now believe is in the mail chain.

Is this correct or not please? as I'm getting confused by the messages

Regards

s.9(2)(a)

---

From: Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)

Sent: 16 January 2025 11:02

To: s.9(2)(a)

Cc: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: RE: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Dear s.9(2)(a)

Your request for information from 19 December was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force as the information was operational. I will now respond to your follow up question:

*You also mention "wording" so are you able to kindly advise me please on what words are allowed and what words may retard the progress of my OIA requests please, as I would like to ensure I use the correct words so that my OIA requests are processed.*

I regret that my 19 December response may have been misleading. To be clear, OIA requests are responded to on a case-by-case basis depending on the particular topic of the request and who holds the material.

This office does not hold information around what words are or are not allowed in OIA requests so I am unable to answer your question, as the information does not exist.

I encourage you to just submit your request for information and it will be triaged accordingly.

Kind regards,

s.9(2)(a)

---

From: s.9(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 10:14 AM

To: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>; Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Hi, just following up to see if I can get an answer to my request for clarification as to the wrong words I used in my OIA request.

I understand my request was sent to you around 19 December but I've not heard anything back.

Can you advise what the issue is with the words and which words I should remove to resubmit my questions.

Thanks in advance

Sams

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 14 January 2025 18:56  
**To:** Ministerial Services <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]

Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** "Information" <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**To:** "s.9(2)(a)"  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** Tue, 14 Jan 2025 at 4:22 pm  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA [unclassified]  
**Hi** s.9(2)(a)

You have emailed the Ministry of Defence. Please direct any questions for the NZDF to their email address: [ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)

Thank you,  
Ministry of Defence



**Ministerial and Executive Services Branch**  
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga - New Zealand Ministry of Defence

Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, PO Box 12703, Wellington 6144, New Zealand

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 January 2025 2:59 p.m.  
**To:** Erica Julian s.9(2)(a) Information <[Info@defence.govt.nz](mailto:Info@defence.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to [spam@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:spam@nzdf.mil.nz) and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

HI NZDF, according to Erica's reply below you are best placed to answer the question about words. Apparently some of the words I used in my OIA requests are not allowed. I've tried to find out which words are not allowed but Erica says NZDF has to answer which words are not allowed so I can resubmit my request with new words.

Can NZDF advise which words I used are not allowed words please? Is there a list of words I can refer to that are allowed / not allowed words?

Thanks



---

**From:** Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 14 January 2025 14:26  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA

Hi s.9(2)(a)

As mentioned below any further questions on this topic are best directed to NZDF.

Have a great day,  
Erica

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 January 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA

Noted thanks Erica,

You mention that the request for information can be influenced by the specific wording in each case. Can you advise what words or wording is not allowed in my questions please? Then I can change the words that are not allowed and hopefully they pass the allowed words test and you can answer that questions.

Which words are causing issues please?

---

**From:** Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 13 January 2025 11:53  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA

Dear s.9(2)(a)

Please find below a brief response to your follow up questions.

As I noted in my original response to you on 19 December, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) will respond to you within the timeframes mandated in the Official Information Act (OIA). Most HMNZS Manawanui queries are transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force, as they are the lead government agency for this matter. I cannot comment on what information the NZDF will or won't release under OIA requests.

When requests for HMNZS Manawanui related information are received by my office, consultation with the NZDF is undertaken to ensure any release of information will not prejudice the Court of Inquiry process. The NZDF holds the responsibility for deciding what information can and cannot be released at this stage.

I do not have any further information to share with you on how OIA requests for HMNZS Manawanui information are managed. Please direct any future requests regarding HMNZS Manawanui to the NZDF.

Kind regards,  
Erica

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 January 2025 10:03 AM  
**To:** Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA



Hi Erica, is your office open now?

Any chance of a reply to my question from last year?

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 20 December 2024 15:13  
**To:** Erica Julian <s.9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA

Hi Erica, any chance of a quick heads-up before COB today so I can work on it while you're on holidays?

When do you open up again please?

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 20 December 2024 13:40  
**To:** Erica Julian <s.9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA

Hi Erica, thats very disappointing after my weeks of chasing a reply.

For now would you kindly please advise which questions you will be answering and which will be others answering please?

Thanks so much

---

**From:** Erica Julian <s.9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** 20 December 2024 13:37  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA

Hello s.9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email. Today is our office's last day of operations for the year and unfortunately, we will not be able to provide a response before our shut down period.

We will be in touch in the new year. Have a lovely Christmas.

Kind regards,  
Erica

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 December 2024 12:03 PM  
**To:** Erica Julian <s.9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** Re: Manawanui sinking OIA

Hi again Erica, given that it's been a couple of weeks I've been communicating with your office I'm wondering if it's possible to get an answer to my questions before the office shuts down for the year please?.

Thanks so much Erica

---

**From:** Sparta sprat <s.sparta111@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 19 December 2024 20:52

To: Erica Julian s.9(2)(a)  
Subject: Re: Manawanui sinking OIA

Hi Erica,

Thank you for your reply as after so many emails I was starting to wonder if you might have gone on Christmas already. Would you be so kind to let me know please when your office is closing for Christmas? and when it is opening again please?

Will it be possible to get your guidance to me questions before you go on what is a well deserved holiday?

In your reply you mention certain advice about what you have accepted you should reply to, and some other information you are transferring to NZDF. Can you please clarify for me which information is being transferred and which information you will be responding to yourself please?.

And you mention in \*due course, can you please advise please what does course actually means please?

Hello Samson,

Thank you for your email of 6 December wherein you asked the following:

*Following the Court of Inquiry (COI) and the subsequent release of information regarding the grounding and sinking of the Manawanui, I have seen various posts online that imply that OIA information requests are being refused so that the COI can run it's course.*

*I've also noted that NZDF is undertaking further investigation such that the COI is ongoing, with completion at the end of Feb '25.*

*Can you advise whether information requested via OIA, regarding the events immediately leading up to the grounding, and the grounding and sinking will be withheld due to the COI process?.*

*The information in questions is specifically related to the grounding and sinking as per phase 1 of the COI, rather than the causes which what has been advised are the basis for the current phase of the COI.*

Your email has been treated as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

Most of the information you requested is operational, and as such I am partially transferring your request to the New Zealand Defence Force pursuant to section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA. The NZDF will respond to you separately in due course.

With regard to OIA requests received directly by my office, the approach to each response has been on a case by case basis depending on the specific wording of each request.

You also mention "wording" so are you able to kindly advise me please on what words are allowed and what words may retard the progress of my OIA requests please, as I would like to ensure I use the correct words so that my OIA requests are processed.

Is there a dictionary of OIA words that are allowed? or is it up to the individual looking at the OIA requests to decide which words are allowed?

If it is your decision in looking at my OIA request, can you please advise me which words are acceptable to ensure the OIA information is provided please, and which ones I should remove so I can then resubmit my OIA request with the correct ones or removing the ones that are not allowed?

Thank you so much and please do kindly let me know when you think you might have a chance to respond to my questions that I hope are not incorrect or inconvenient?

Thanks and hopefully I can hear from you before a jolly Christmas !!



**From:** Erica Julian [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Sent:** 19 December 2024 13:54  
**To:** [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Cc:** [ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz) <[ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA

Hello [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Thank you for your email of 6 December wherein you asked the following:

*Following the Court of Inquiry (COI) and the subsequent release of information regarding the grounding and sinking of the Manawanui, I have seen various posts online that imply that OIA information requests are being refused so that the COI can run its course.*

*I've also noted that NZDF is undertaking further investigation such that the COI is ongoing, with completion at the end of Feb '25.*

*Can you advise whether information requested via OIA, regarding the events immediately leading up to the grounding, and the grounding and sinking will be withheld due to the COI process?*

*The information in questions is specifically related to the grounding and sinking as per phase 1 of the COI, rather than the causes which what has been advised are the basis for the current phase 2 of the COI.*

Your email has been treated as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

Most of the information you requested is operational, and as such I am partially transferring your request to the New Zealand Defence Force pursuant to section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA. The NZDF will respond to you separately in due course.

With regard to OIA requests received directly by my office, the approach to each response has been on a case by case basis depending on the specific wording of each request.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Thanks,  
Erica

**From:** Judith Collins (MIN)  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 December 2024 9:28 AM  
**To:** [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Manawanui sinking OIA

Good morning,

This is our acknowledgement of your OIA request.

Warm regards,

## Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura  
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister Responsible for the G  
Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister of Science, Innovation & Technology | Minister for Space





Email: [Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz) Website:

[\[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/\]](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/)[\[http://www.Beehive.govt.nz\]](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)[\[http://www.Beehive.govt.nz/www.l](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz/www.l)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Judith Collins KC, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Friday, 6 December 2024 7:21 PM

**To:** Judith Collins (MIN) <[J.Collins@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:J.Collins@ministers.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Manawanui sinking OIA

Greetings Minister,

Following the Court of Inquiry (COI) and the subsequent release of information regarding the grounding and sinking of the Manawanui, I have seen various posts online that imply that OIA information requests are being refused so that the COI can run its course.

I've also noted that NZDF is undertaking further investigation such that the COI is ongoing, with completion at the end of Feb '25.

Can you advise whether information requested via OIA, regarding the events immediately leading up to the grounding, and the grounding and sinking will be withheld due to the COI process?.

The information in questions is specifically related to the grounding and sinking as per phase 1 of the COI, rather than the causes which what has been advised are the basis for the current phase 2 of the COI.

Nga mihi

s.9(2)(a)

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

OIA-2025-5260

28 February 2025

s.9(2)(a)

@nzme.co.nz

Dear s.9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 3 February 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA),

*All internal and external correspondence regarding the tender process and awarding of a contract to salvage companies for the removal of fuel from the HMNZS Manawanui.*

*All information and documentation detailing concerns raised regarding the company (and or companies) selected or considered to undertake work on the sunken vessel.*

*Any cost benefit analysis or similar documentation relating to the tender process and awarding of a contract to companies engaged in the work.*

The tender process relating to the removal of fuel and other pollutants from HMNZS Manawanui was carried out by New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) insurer, Shipowners' Club. A summary of the received tenders was then provided to the NZDF for a decision.

The tender proposals, summary, and advice provided by Shipowners' Club to the NZDF are withheld in full in accordance with sections 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, as making this information public would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the insurer.

Relevant emails cannot currently be extracted from the NZDF email archive system. There is no timeframe available for when this may be resolved. In order to identify relevant correspondence, all known personnel involved would have to retrieve emails from their own inboxes, if they are still held. This would require a substantial research and collation effort for all involved and this part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA. A small number of emails have been saved separately, however, and these are withheld in full in accordance with sections 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(h) of the OIA. This is because they also contain some of the information withheld for the same reason as explained above, as well as to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the provision of free and frank advice by public officials in the course of their duties, and legal professional privilege respectively.

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF





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

OIA-2025-5278

28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Troy McClure  
[fyi-request-30135-60ce2032@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-30135-60ce2032@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Troy McClure

I refer to your email of 19 February 2025 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*access to all communications relating to the HMNZS Manawanui and Yvonne Gray for the year 2025. Specifically, I request any and all written, electronic, and other communications, including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, meeting notes, or any other relevant documents, between the following individuals:*

*Judith Collins, Minister of Defence*

*Rear Admiral Garin Golding, Chief of Navy Chris Luxon, Prime Minister The timeframe for these communications should cover all correspondence during the year 2025.*

*To clarify, I am seeking:*

*Any discussions regarding the operational status, maintenance, deployment, or any other operational matters concerning the HMNZS Manawanui.*

*Any communications related to Yvonne Gray in connection with the HMNZS Manawanui (e.g., roles, decisions, reports, or contributions).*

*Any planning, decision-making, or policy related to the vessel or individuals that involve the Ministry of Defence, the New Zealand Navy, or the Prime Minister's Office.*

*Any advice, reports, or recommendations from or to these individuals regarding the HMNZS Manawanui or Yvonne Gray.*

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the OIA.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website<sup>1</sup>.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. The requested information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the

<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>

effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The NZDF intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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](http://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

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

## Ministerial Services

---

**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 February 2025 10:32 a.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services  
**Cc:** Sargentina, Scott; Bonallack, Andrew  
**Subject:** FW: RNZ request for information

**Categories:** s.9(2)(a)

Hi team  
Would you please pick this one up? I'll be happy to let her know.

Team Navy: FYI.

Ngā mihi  
s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a)  
Principal Advisor Media - DPA, Defence Public Affairs  
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Mobile: s.9(2)(a)

[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



**From:** s.9(2)(a)@rnz.co.nz]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 February 2025 9:21 a.m.  
**To:** @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>  
**Subject:** RNZ request for information

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do **not** follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in any doubt please forward the email to [spam@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:spam@nzdf.mil.nz) and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

Good Morning,  
I'm looking for some information from Defence as part of research into a story I'm doing. If this needs to be an OIA request, could you please pass onto the appropriate team.

- What steering is used by each ship in the Defence Forces fleet (including the now obsolete Manawanui) and the date this system was both installed and last updated/maintained
- What navigation system is used by each ship in the Defence Forces fleet (including the now obsolete Manawanui) and the dates this system was both installed and last updated/maintained

Thanks



s.9(2)(a)

| Journalist

RNZ, PO Box 123, Wellington, New Zealand, 6140

DDI: s.9(2)(a)

Mobile: +

[www.rnz.co.nz](http://www.rnz.co.nz)



TE REO  
IRIRANGI  
O AOTEAROA

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

OIA-2025-5286

21 March 2025

[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 27 February 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to the steering and navigation systems used by the ships operated by the New Zealand Defence Force.

The steering systems on each ship operated by the NZDF, including HMNZS Manawanui prior to her loss, are provided in the table below.

Ship	Steering system	When installed	Last maintenance
HMNZS Te Mana	Brown Brothers, FF00 Steering gear	Installed at ship build	Currently in maintenance
HMNZS Te Kaha	Brown Brothers, FF00 Steering gear	Installed at ship build	February 2025
HMNZS Aotearoa	Rolls Royce Marine AS, Frydenbo Steering gear	Installed at ship build	January 2025
HMNZS Canterbury	Rolls Royce Marine AS, Tenfjord Steering gear	Installed at ship build	January 2025
HMNZS Manawanui	Steerprop, SP35 CRP Azimuth thrusters	Installed at ship build	Steering motors in February 2024 Thrusters in September 2024
HMNZS Taupo	Freemantle Hydraulics provided a custom Steering gear system	Installed at ship build	December 2024
HMNZS Hawea	Freemantle Hydraulics provided a custom Steering gear system	Installed at ship build	April 2024
HMNZS Otago	Rolls Royce Marine AS, Tenfjord Steering gear	Installed at ship build	October 2023
HMNZS Wellington	Rolls Royce Marine AS, Tenfjord Steering gear	Installed at ship build	May 2023

Similarly, the navigation systems for each ship operated by the NZDF, including HMNZS Manawanui prior to her loss, are provided in the following table.

Ship	Navigation system	When installed	Last maintenance
HMNZS Te Mana	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	2006	Currently in maintenance
HMNZS Te Kaha	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	2006	January 2025
HMNZS Aotearoa	Hendsoldt GECDIS-W	Installed at ship build	January 2025
HMNZS Canterbury	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	Installed at ship build	January 2025
HMNZS Manawanui	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	2019	May 2024
HMNZS Taupo	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	Installed at ship build	February 2025
HMNZS Hawea	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	Installed at ship build	November 2022
HMNZS Otago	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	Installed at ship build	October 2023
HMNZS Wellington	OSI Maritime Systems ECPINS-W	Installed at ship build	November 2022

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF





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

OIA-2025-5313

2 April 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 19 March 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*What is the list of all overseas port visits (including Calypso) by the HMNZS Manawaroa [sic] in the two years up to September 2024?*

*For each overseas port visit, what were the dates of the visits and how many people were on board at the time of arrival and at the time of departure?*

*What is the list of all overseas (outside the NZ EEZ) transits by the HMNZS Manawaroa [sic] in the two years up to September 2024, including the starting point and end point and dates of each transit?*

As you have confirmed, information about HMNZS Manawaru's movements between ports for the time period requested is provided in the below table.

Departure			Arrival		
Location	Date	People on board	Location	Date	People on board
Devonport	25 Jul 22	55	Niue	30 Jul 22	55
Niue	31 Jul 22	55	Tonga	3 Aug 22	55
Tonga	9 Aug 22	56	Tonga	19 Aug 22	56
Tonga	22 Aug 22	57	Fiji	25 Aug 22	57
Fiji	3 Sep 22	58	Fiji	19 Sep 22	58
Fiji	23 Sep 22	56	Devonport	26 Sep 22	56
Tauranga	24 Oct 23	70	Rarotonga	28 Oct 23	70
Rarotonga	1 Nov 23	77	Fiji	11 Nov 23	74
Fiji	14 Nov 23	75	Fiji	24 Nov 23	75
Fiji	27 Nov 23	71	Devonport	3 Dec 23	71
Devonport	11 May 24	72	Sydney	17 May 24	72
Sydney	20 May 24	65	Sydney	24 May 24	65
Sydney	27 May 24	76	Sydney	7 Jun 24	77
Sydney	14 Jun 24	64	Vanuatu	21 Jun 24	64
Vanuatu	25 Jun 24	66	Tonga	29 Jun 24	66
Tonga	6 Jul 24	60	Devonport	10 Jul 24	60
Devonport	28 Sep 24	75			

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](http://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, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

## Ministerial Services

---

**From:** Ministerial Services  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 April 2025 8:42 a.m.  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** [unclassified] FW: MOIA Reply (PMO OIA 334-2024-25) (OIA-2024\_25-0734)\_  
s.9(2)(a) Referendum voting system and (4996521.1)

Good morning Mr s.9(2)(a)

The Court of Inquiry report is publicly available on the New Zealand Defence Force website:

[https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/MAN-COI-ROP-FINAL-31-Mar-25\\_Redacted-v2.pdf](https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/MAN-COI-ROP-FINAL-31-Mar-25_Redacted-v2.pdf)

The President of the Court of Inquiry also addressed why the HMNZS Manawanui was undertaking the survey task in Samoa at the press conference held when the Court of Inquiry report was released.

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**  
OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



**A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND**

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**From:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 March 2025 1:08 PM  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: MOIA Reply (PMO OIA 334-2024-25) (OIA-2024\_25-0734)\_ s.9(2)(a) Referendum voting system and (4996521.1)

Dear Mr s.9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email below.

You will recall we transferred your original OIA request to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) as the question is more closely connected to their functions. I understand you have received a response from NZDF.

It appears from your email below that you have further questions. As previously advised, this matter is more closely connected to the functions of NZDF. I will therefore forward the below to NZDF for their direct response.

Yours sincerely

s.9(2)(a)



**From:** s.9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 March 2025 12:05 PM

**To:** Sarah Boyle s.9(2)(a)

**Subject:** Re: MOIA Reply (PMO OIA 334-2024-25) (OIA-2024\_25-0734)\_Chrystall\_Referendum voting system and (4996521.1)

Dear Sarah Boyle, and Cameron Burrows,

I've read the transcript. Nowhere does it mention why the Manawanui was in foriegn waters.

So under the Official Information Act I further request an answer.

The transcript states the navy ship was surveying. But why was it surveying in FORIEGN waters? If it was at request of Samoa then the Samoan govt must accept some risk and damage that may have occurred.

So under Oia, I ask again, " why was the Manawanui in foriegn Alien waters?

Yours seriously

s.9(2)(a)

Motuiti

Sent from my iPad

On 19 Mar 2025, at 9:50 AM, Sarah Boyle s.9(2)(a) wrote:

<MOIA Reply (PMO OIA 334-2024-25) (OIA-2024\_25-0734)\_s.9(2)(a)\_Referendum voting system and (4996521.1).pdf>



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

OIA-2025-5324

1 April 2025

Steve Morse

[fyi-request-30533-685abb0a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-30533-685abb0a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Steve Morse

I refer to your email of 26 March 2025 requesting, information on New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) social media policies, and social media engagement on the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and a response to the various parts of your request is set out below.

*I understand that the official accounts of the NZDF and NZ Navy have banned/blocked a number of New Zealanders from commenting on NZDF and Navy social articles on Facebook and Twitter ('X.com'), over criticism of the Navy's scuttling of HMNZS Manawanui and poisoning of Samoa's fisheries.*

- 1) *Does the NZDF or Navy have policies or guidelines around what purpose officially run social media accounts serve? If so, please provide the text of said policies.*

The use of official NZDF social media channels is informed by the NZDF Public Affairs Strategy and governed by Defence Force Instruction 7.2. Both documents are publicly available on the NZDF website<sup>1 2</sup>. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA.

- 2) *Does the NZDF or Navy have policies or guidelines around under what situations those offering criticism of, for example, Capt Gray's choice to poison the waters of Tafitoala, would be banned or blocked from engaging in public discourse around NZDF & Navy actions? If so, please provide the text of said policies.*

The NZDF does not have specific policies or guidelines to manage social media engagement on the HMNZS Manawanui sinking. All engagement is managed in accordance with the NZDF social media community guidelines, which are published on the NZDF website<sup>3</sup>. If these guidelines have been breached, the team that manages the social media channels will remove the comment or block the account.

- 3) *How many accounts have been banned or blocked from NZDF and Army/Navy/Air Force social media accounts, tabulated by social media site and organization?*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/NZDF-Public-Affairs-Strategy-2022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/dfi\\_7\\_2.pdf](https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/dfi_7_2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdf/social-media-hub/#:~:text=Be%20Kind%20and%20Courteous,inappropriate%20in%20a%20public%20forum.>

The number of users blocked on actively managed NZDF social media channels, as at 26 March 2025, is provided in the table below. Note, the NZDF retains Service profiles across all listed platforms, but does not actively use or manage Service channels other than Facebook.

	Facebook	Instagram	X	YouTube	LinkedIn	BlueSky
New Zealand Defence Force	226	107	52	40	0	0
Royal New Zealand Navy	219					
New Zealand Army	351					
Royal New Zealand Air Force	173					

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](http://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

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF





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

OIA-2025-5324.1

7<sup>th</sup>  
May 2025

Steven Morse  
[fyi-request-30533-685abb0a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-30533-685abb0a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Stephen Morse

I refer to your email of 15 April 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), further information regarding your previous request (OIA-2025-5324):

*...I am making a further request as to whether the NZDF retains any record of why and for what material/reasons it bans New Zealanders from commenting on NZDF actions on social media channels, whether in the form of a spreadsheet, or in the form of email communications to a group inbox or supervisor, or in whatever other way it may be retained. Should they exist, I am also requesting these records in electronic form (not as a summary).*

*On the other hand, if NZDF personnel simply arbitrarily ban those who politely criticize the likes of its environmental terrorism against Samoa without retaining any records of why it does so, please make that clear.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) does not retain a record of reasons for blocking any given user. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA because the information does not exist. While the right to block users is reserved, blocking is not done arbitrarily. It is a last resort tool that is rarely used and then only in relation to egregious or repeated violations of community guidelines.

Only a small team of experienced professionals have permission to block users on NZDF channels. That team has no record or recollection of a user being blocked because of polite criticism. You will find examples of criticism ranging from polite to robust across the NZDF's social media presence.

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](http://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

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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**From:** Ministerial Services  
**Sent:** Monday, 7 April 2025 7:20 a.m.  
**To:** s.9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** [unclassified] RE: OIA

Good morning s.9(2)(a)

As was noted during the press conference, information has been withheld under sections 6(a), 9(2)(a), and 9(2)(ba) of the Official Information Act 1982. The information for the paragraphs you have referenced is withheld in accordance with sections 6(a) given the sensitive nature of the information, and section 9(2)(ba) as it is witness testimony.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Regards

**Corporate and Ministerial Services**  
OCDF, Office of Chief of Defence Force  
New Zealand Defence Force  
[www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)



**A FORCE FOR  
NEW ZEALAND**

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—Original Message—

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 April 2025 6:32 p.m.  
**To:** Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>  
**Subject:** OIA

Dear OIA staff,

I write under the OIA concerning the Manawanui commission of inquiry report released today.

Please provide the text of paragraphs 125-128 (TOR18) which was redacted from the copy released today.

with thanks,

s.9(2)(a)