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New Zealand Defence Force
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OIA-2025-5366

May 2025

Andrew Riddell

fyi-request-30827-4d677b4c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Riddell

I refer to your request of 26 April 2025 to the Ministry of Defence seeking the following information concerning HMNZS Te Kaha joining the United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group (UKCSG):

Please provide a copy of the terms of reference or similar that set out the purpose of this carrier group and the role of the frigate.

Please also provide copies of any briefing or advice on this matter to the Minister of Defence and of any paper to cabinet seeking approval for this placement.

Your request as it concerns *the terms of reference or similar that set out the purpose of this carrier group and the role of the frigate* was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Some information about the UKCSG's deployment to the Indo-Pacific region this year (Operation Highmast) is publicly available online. As noted on the Royal Navy website¹, the goal of Operation Highmast is to reaffirm the United Kingdom's commitment to the security of the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific region, demonstrate collective resolve with allies and showcase British trade and industry.

Specific details of the deployment are provided to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence and are withheld in full in accordance with sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the OIA. Similarly, details of the operational role of HMZNS Te Kaha within the UKCSG are also withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) 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 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

¹ <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news/2025/april/29/250429-carrier-strike-group-heads-for-the-med>