



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

OIA-2025-5396
OIA-2025-5397

16th June 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your emails of 16 May 2025, asking the following:

*Why was there no public advise that the crew had abandoned ship without the ships log?
Why was it over a week before NZDF advised the public that the log had been recovered
by HMS Tamar?*

*Why were all references to the log and critical documents redacted in the heavily
redacted report?*

Why was some much information redacted in the report?

What is the current status of the disciplinary process?

*Will Commander Gray and the crew responsible for bridge and navigation be Court
Martialed?*

Why wasnt Commander Gray on the bridge at the time of the grounding?

*Why was the Rear Admiral Golding unaware that the ships log was lost prior to it being
recovered?*

*Was anyone at NZDF or MOD aware that the crew abandoned ship without the ships log
prior to it being recovered by HMS Tamar on 7th October 2024*

*Was Commander Gray aware that the ships log had not been secured before abandoning
ship*

*What orders did Commander Gray issue with regards to the ship's log, prior to or after
the instruction to crew to go to the toilet before entering the life rafts and abandoning
ship*

*At what point was Commander Gray aware that the ships log had not been secured
Did NZDF or MOD advise any party or HMS Tamar that the ships log was unaccounted
for prior to it being recovered*

*Was the ships log an item HMS Tamar crew were searching for or did they find it when
inspection the wreck*

*What instructions were given to HMS Tamar regarding search of the Manawau wreck
and did any instruction mention the ships log*

What was the last entry in the ships log a

What time was the last entry in the ships log

Who made the last entry in the ships log

The reasons for information being withheld from the Court of Inquiry report were publicly announced. Sections 6(a), 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) apply. As noted in the response to you of 15 May 2025, the ship's log was not considered lost. The

priority was the recovery and wellbeing of the ship's crew and personnel took the appropriate actions. The New Zealand Defence Force gave no instructions to HMS Tamar with respect to the log. With respect to any disciplinary processes, investigations remain ongoing. As a result, information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui that has not already been made public is withheld 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 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