



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

OIA-2025-5423

30th July 2025

Felix Lee

fyi-request-31243-0bdf23d6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Felix Lee

I refer to your email of 7 June 2025 requesting *all documents related to the HMAS Canberra radar interference incident of June 4*. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Following the decision on your request of 22 July 2025, enclosed is a copy of relevant email communications. As noted in that decision, information has been withheld in accordance with the OIA where indicated.

You retain 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

Enclosure:

1. Email correspondence



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

OIA-2025-5425

30th July 2025

[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 9 June 2025 requesting *all communication relating to internet outages and radio disruption caused by the HMAS Canberra's visit to New Zealand*. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Following the decision on your request of 22 July 2025, enclosed is a copy of relevant email communications. As noted in that decision, information has been withheld in accordance with the OIA where indicated.

You retain 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

Enclosure:

1. Email correspondence



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

OIA-2025-5428

30th July 2025

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 10 June 2025 requesting [a]ny *communications received or sent by Defence, including between staff internally, relating to HMAS Canberra accidentally affecting wireless internet and radio services in New Zealand on June 4*. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Following the decision on your request of 22 July 2025, enclosed is a copy of relevant email communications. As noted in that decision, information has been withheld in accordance with the OIA where indicated.

You retain 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

Enclosure:

1. Email correspondence

Ministerial Services

From: Dowling, Andy, CAPT RNZN
Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 7:14 p.m.
To: Motley, Grant, BRIG
Subject: RE: Canberra Incident [IN-CONFIDENCE]

Roger that sir.

Yours aye

Andy

Captain Andy Dowling RNZN
NZDF Defence Advisor Australia & India
s. 9(2)(a)

From: Motley, Grant, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Date: Tuesday 10 Jun 2025 at 17:10
To: Dowling, Andy, CAPT RNZN s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Canberra Incident [IN-CONFIDENCE]

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i) . It wasn't released word for word
but it's similar to the statement on Stuff.

From: Dowling, Andy, CAPT RNZN s. 9(2)(a)
Date: Tuesday, 10 Jun 2025 at 18:53
To: Motley, Grant, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Canberra Incident [IN-CONFIDENCE]

Ahoy Sir.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

s. 9(2)(g)(i) I know they
sent a response to STUFF see below which I know went to s. 9(2)(a) too.

The following statement can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

HMAS Canberra became aware that their navigation radar was interfering with Wi-Fi in the Taranaki to the Marlborough region on approach to Wellington.

On becoming aware, HMAS Canberra changed frequencies rectifying the interference. There are no ongoing disruptions.

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Yours aye,

Andy

Captain Andrew Dowling, MA (War), MA (Int Strat), PSC(J),

Defence Advisor Australia and India/ Head NZDS - NZDSCANB, Strategic Commitments Engagements Br

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Motley, Grant, BRIG

Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 4:40 p.m.

To: Dowling, Andy, CAPT RNZN s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: FW: Canberra Incident [IN-CONFIDENCE]

Andy,

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Grant Motley

From: Motley, Grant, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)

Date: Tuesday, 10 Jun 2025 at 18:11

To: s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Canberra Incident [IN-CONFIDENCE]

Which CN?

From: s. 9(2)(a)

Date: Tuesday, 10 Jun 2025 at 18:05

To: Motley, Grant, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Canberra Incident [IN-CONFIDENCE]

IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Sir,

All I received was a holding response from the office of CN. Nothing from the other offices

This is holding statement from CN's office:

HMAS Canberra while navigating the approaches to Wellington was using on-board radars to assist with safe navigation. Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand advised the ship that their radar was inadvertently disrupting WIFI in the Taranaki to Marlborough region. HMAS Canberra changed frequencies to remove the source of interference immediately.

Nga mihi,

s. 9(2)(a)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

IN-CONFIDENCE

From: Motley, Grant, BRIG s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 6:00:03 PM

To: s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: Canberra Incident

s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

COS

Ministerial Services

From: Davies, Tony, AM
Sent: Monday, 9 June 2025 12:58 p.m.
To: Motley, Grant, BRIG
Cc: s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: HMAS Canberra related TPs

Thanks Grant. Hopefully the issue is settling down by now (but it certainly hadn't when I was driving to work this morning).

s. 9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks.

From: Motley, Grant, BRIG
Sent: Monday, 9 June 2025 11:38 a.m.
To: Davies, Tony, AM s. 9(2)(a); Williams, Mathew, RADM s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: HMAS Canberra related TPs

CDF,

As requested at WHEC.

OCDF and DPA were consistent and brief with our media talking points last week (Thursday and Friday). By Friday (6 Jun), most media enquiries were being referred to MBIE with NZDF in support. Our TPs were/remain:

- This is an operational matter for the Australian Defence Force.
- NZDF assisted MBIE by contacting ADF counterparts who, in turn, acted quickly to resolve the issue.

Summary of events.

1. MBIE was made aware of an issue affecting wireless internet service providers in the Marlborough region on the evening of 4 June.
2. Following this, Radio Spectrum Management notified the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) that it believed a Royal Australian Navy ship, HMAS Canberra located in Cloudy Bay, Marlborough (now early morning 5 June), was disrupting wireless internet connectivity in the region. (we also understand disruption occurred earlier on the North Island's west coast s. 9(2)(g)(i)).
3. NZDF contacted the Australian Defence Force to resolve the issue. The ADF confirmed the interference was because of a radar system. The ship changed frequencies and the issue was resolved.

Brigadier Grant Motley

Chief of Staff, Headquarters

Te Ope Katua O Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Ministerial Services

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 9 June 2025 8:17 a.m.
To: s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: s. 9(2)(a); Motley, Grant, BRIG; s. 9(2)(a)
s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: HMAS CANBERRA lines for PMO unclassified

One amend, taken from the ADF statement.

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 9 June 2025 8:14 am
To: s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: s. 9(2)(a); Motley, Grant, BRIG; s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: HMAS CANBERRA lines for PMO
Importance: High

Hi s. 9(2)

As discussed, PMO are seeking lines on HMAS CANBERRA and the outages. Are you happy with the below?

- This is an operational matter for the Australian Defence Force
- MBIE was made aware of an issue affecting wireless internet service providers in the Marlborough region on the morning of 4 June 2025.
- Following this, Radio Spectrum Management notified the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) that it was believed a Royal Australian Navy ship, HMAS Canberra located in Cloudy Bay, Marlborough, was causing issues to operators of wireless internet providers in that region.
- NZDF contacted the Australian Defence Force **to resolve the issue.** s. 6(a)
s. 9(2)(a). **The ship changed frequencies and the issue was resolved.**

Thanks,
s. 9(2)
()



s. 9(2)(a)
Private Secretary (Defence) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government
Minister for the Public Service | Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

s. 9(2)(a)
Email: s. 9(2)(a) | Website: www.beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Judith Collins KC MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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Ministerial Services

From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 12:26 p.m.
To: s. 6(a) **[ADF]**; s. 6(a)
Cc: s. 6(a) **[ADF]**
Subject: RE: Interference Reports - HMAS Canberra [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Kia ora s. 6(a)

Yes, our WISPs run under a General User Radio Licence that dictates they use DFS. I think the surprise from the WISPs was the power and breadth of the interference, which is usually small and localised and easy to deal with.

s. 6(a)

Ngā Mihi | Kind Regards,

s. 6(a)

Kaitohutohu Tūāwhiorangi Autōhiko | Electromagnetic Spectrum Advisor
Information Warfare Integration
Te Pou Hangarau Matihiko | Information Command
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 11:11 am
To: s. 6(a)
Cc: s. 6(a)
s. 6(a) **[ADF]** s. 6(a)
Subject: RE: Interference Reports - HMAS Canberra [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)

I don't want to throw extra work on your already busy schedule but if its easy for you to find out then it might help us understand how to address this in future s. 6(a).

Cheers

Kind Regards

s. 6(a)

JOINT CAPABILITIES GROUP | DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

s. 6(a)

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From: s. 6(a)

Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 5:00 AM

To: s. 6(a)

Cc: s. 6(a)

Subject: RE: Interference Reports - HMAS Canberra [SEC=OFFICIAL]

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. 

Kia ora all,

The local media did pick it up - <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/360713622/visiting-australian-navy-ship-causes-internet-outages-radio-disruptions>

Ngā Mihi | Kind Regards,

s. 6(a)

Kaitohutohu Tūāwhiorangi Autōhiko | Electromagnetic Spectrum Advisor

Information Warfare Integration

Te Pou Hangarau Matihiko | Information Command

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Sent with BlackBerry Work

(www.blackberry.com)

From: s. 6(a)

Date: Thursday, 05 Jun 2025 at 10:54 AM

To: s. 6(a)

Cc: s. 6(a)

Subject: RE: Interference Reports - HMAS Canberra [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Kia Ora s. 6(a)

Thanks for passing this along and for reaching out. s. 6(a) we haven't yet seen this come through on our end, however I suspect the formal reporting will follow shortly. My team will reach out to our maritime component and double-check what has been communicated to *Canberra*, but in the meantime, are you able to confirm if the interference has ceased?

Nga mihi,

s. 6(a)

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From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 2:49 PM
To: s. 6(a)
Subject: FW: Interference Reports - HMAS Canberra [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s. 6(a)



IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 2:25 PM
To: s. 6(a)
Subject: Interference Reports - HMAS Canberra

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. 

Kia ora Gents,

The national Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) radio investigation team is looking into several interference reports from Wireless ISP (WISPs) providers in Taranaki, Manawatu, Nelson and Marlborough and have contacted us as they believe the interference could be coming from the visiting ship HMAS Canberra.

The WISPs reporting the interference operate in the 5 GHz band mainly between 5.7 – 5.9 GHz. RSM suspect it is interference from HMAS Canberra s. 6(a)

making it a likely candidate as the source of the interference.

s. 6(a) HQJFNZ has been communicating with his counterparts s. 6(a) and asked them to get a message to HMAS Canberra, informing the ship of the interference reports, s. 6(a) and asking them to immediately cease any RF emissions that cover the 5.7 – 5.9 GHz band whilst in NZ territory. This has been done and we will hopefully see no further instances of interference.

The WISPs have been vocal on social media (LinkedIn and maybe FB) as well

Feel free to pass onto the Ops team. I'll keep you informed of any updates.

Ngā Mihi | Kind Regards,

s. 6(a)

Kaitohutohu Tūāwhiorangi Autōhiko | Electromagnetic Spectrum Advisor
Information Warfare Integration
Te Pou Hangarau Matihiko | Information Command
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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If you have received this message in error, please Email or telephone the sender immediately

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 5:09 p.m.
To: Sharon Lundy; s. 9(2)(a)
Motley,
Grant, BRIG; s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - Internet outages and radio disruptions unclassified

Further to this, final MBIE response below, slightly modified from the earlier response. They have advised their Minister's Office.

This can be attributed to Claire Smollett, National Manager, Radio Spectrum Management:

We were made aware of an issue affecting wireless internet service providers in the Marlborough region on the morning of 4 June 2025. Following this, Radio Spectrum Management notified the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) that we believed a Royal Australian Navy ship, HMAS Canberra located in Cloudy Bay, Marlborough, was causing issues to operators of wireless internet providers in that region. We have contacted NZDF about this issue. Following that, we have received no further reports of interference.

Regarding Mr Brewer's claims on LinkedIn, we currently have no evidence to confirm how widespread the interference was.

We take all interference matters seriously, especially those that cause widespread issues. As we have no further information at this time, we are unable to comment further.

[ENDS]

From: Sharon Lundy s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 5:07 pm
To: s. 9(2)(a)

Motley, Grant, BRIG

Subject: RE: Media enquiry - Internet outages and radio disruptions unclassified

Thanks s. 9(2)(a)

Sharon Lundy

Senior Press Secretary | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service | Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space



Mobile: s. 9(2)(a)
Email: [redacted] Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 5:04 PM

To: Sharon Lundy s. 9(2)(a)

; Motley, Grant, BRIG

Subject: FW: Media enquiry - Internet outages and radio disruptions unclassified

A line we propose to go to Stuff now, and to any other media on a reactive basis once Stuff runs its story, and noting that MBIE has/is supplying further info.

From an NZDF spokesperson:

The issue was reported to the New Zealand Defence Force. We contacted the Australian Defence Force and the issue was resolved.

From: s. 9(2)(a)

@stuff.co.nz]

Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 3:26 p.m.

To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: Re: Media enquiry - Internet outages and radio disruptions

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 and then delete the email from your Inbox. Thank you.

Sorry, I missed a key line clarifying the radio engineer said the outages were a result of the visiting Australian navy ship disrupting frequencies on the shared radio spectrum.



Christchurch

s. 9(2)(a)

Journalist

s. 9(2)(a)

Press House,
158 Gloucester Street,

Christchurch 8011
Private Bag 4722,
Christchurch

On Thu, 5 Jun 2025 at 15:24, s. 9(2)(a) <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@stuff.co.nz](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@stuff.co.nz)> wrote:

Kia ora,

I understand there were a number of internet outages and disruptions to radio frequencies yesterday.

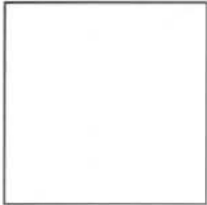
I understand affected areas were Taranaki, Manawatu, Nelson and then Marlborough.

Radio engineer Jonathan Brewer said he reported it to Radio Spectrum Management, who reported it to NZDF, who then contacted the Australian defence force to remedy the situation.

Please could you respond to the below before 4.30pm

- Was it reported to NZDF?
- If so, what was done about it?
- Is this a concern for the NZDF?

Thanks very much,
s. 9(2)(a)



Christchurch

s. 9(2)(a)

Journalist

s. 9(2)(a)

Press House,
158 Gloucester Street,
Christchurch 8011
Private Bag 4722,
Christchurch

Ministerial Services

From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 3:34 p.m.
To: s. 6(a)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Suspected RF Interference from HMAS Canberra

Hi s. 6(a)

Thanks for the rapid action. There is now open source (LinkedIn) reporting on the impact of their travels.

Ngā Mihi | Kind Regards,

s. 6(a)

Kaitohutohu Tūāwhiorangi Autōhiko | Electromagnetic Spectrum Advisor
Information Warfare Integration
Te Pou Hangarau Matihiko | Information Command
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 3:29 pm
To: s. 6(a)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Suspected RF Interference from HMAS Canberra

Hey s. 6(a)

I have contacted s. 6(a) and they have sent a signal to Canberra.
Any sort of luck they'll turn it off when they read it.

s. 6(a)

Director Operations, Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 2:59 p.m.

To: s. 6(a)

Cc:

Subject: Suspected RF Interference from HMAS Canberra

Kia ora Brendon,

Refs:

- A. RSM telecon to NZDF Spectrum Advisor
- B. Spectrum Advisor discussion with s. 6(a)
- C. s. 6(a) discussion/email with Maritime Desk, HQJFNZ
- D. J6 discussion with Spectrum Advisor

The national Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) radio investigation team is looking into several interference reports from Wireless ISP (WISPs) providers ranging from Taranaki to Marlborough and have contacted us as they believe the interference could be coming from the visiting ship HMAS Canberra.

The WISPs reporting the interference operate in the high end of the 5 GHz band between 5.7 – 5.9 GHz. RSM suspect it is interference from HMAS Canberra s. 6(a)

making it a likely candidate as the source of the interference.

I respectfully request that you contact your s. 6(a) counterpart in s. 6(a) and ask them to get a message to HMAS Canberra, informing the ship of the interference reports, s. 6(a) and asking them to immediately cease any RF emissions that cover the 5.7 – 5.9 GHz band whilst in NZ territory.

Happy to answer any questions at any time on s. 6(a) today.

Ngā Mihi | Kind Regards,

s. 6(a)

Kaitohutohu Tūāwhiorangi Autōhiko | Electromagnetic Spectrum Advisor
Information Warfare Integration
Te Pou Hangarau Matihiko | Information Command
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



Ministerial Services

From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 1:55 p.m.
To: s. 6(a)
Cc: Spectrum
Subject: RE: Suspected RF Interference from HMAS Canberra

s. 6(a) thanks for the info, I have spoken with s. 6(a) at Joint and his team have this for action. No action from you at this stage

s. 6(a) details below in case this is of use to you and if you need any assistance with MBIE or need to provide them with an update to check that any action by the ship is effective feel free to ask s. 6(a) his mobile No is s. 6(a).

Yours

s. 6(a)

Director Information Warfare Integration
Te Pou Hangarau Matihiko | Information Command
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 6(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 1:50 pm
To: s. 6(a)
Cc:
Subject: Suspected RF Interference from HMAS Canberra
Importance: High

Kia ora s. 6(a)

As just discussed:

The RSM radio investigation team is looking into several interference reports from Wireless ISP (WISPs) providers ranging from Taranaki to Marlborough. These WISPs operate in the high end of the 5 GHz band between 5.7 – 5.9 GHz (5GHz WiFi is also in there). They suspect it is interference from the ship s. 6(a) ETA Wellington tomorrow morning. s. 6(a)

making it a likely candidate as the source of the interference.

My COA is to reach out to my counterparts s. 6(a) and ask them to get a message to HMAS Canberra, informing them of the interference reports, s. 6(a) and asking them to cease any transmissions that cover the 5.7 – 5.9 GHz band whilst in NZ territory, unless JFNZ want to take the lead on doing this s. 6(a)

Ngā Mihi | Kind Regards,

s. 6(a)

Kaitohutohu Tūāwhiorangi Autōhiko | Electromagnetic Spectrum Advisor
Information Warfare Integration
Te Pou Hangarau Matihiko | Information Command
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

s. 6(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

