



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

OIA-2025-5522

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 26 August 2025 in which you state the following:

*Given the already extensive investigations and release of the report can you confirm whether the investigations involve further investigation on matters that have already been investigated, new matters which have come to light during the investigation, or some other category of matters to be investigated.*

*Is there any idea of timeframe for these investigations to be concluded. Is it likely or unlikely that it could take up to 5 years for this decision the decision to be made about charges as was seen recently with the espionage case involving NZDF personnel.*

*Will all the crew who were implicated in the sinking of the Manawanui continue to have name suppression and be on full pay while this decision is under investigation.*

Per the response to you of 26 August 2025, the current investigations necessarily precede decisions on disciplinary actions. You may find the President's and Assembling Authority's Guide to Courts of Inquiry<sup>1</sup> useful to understand the context of a Court of Inquiry. As noted in the foreword, a Court of Inquiry cannot be used in evidence against any person in any other proceedings<sup>2</sup>.

A timeframe for when these investigations will be concluded is not currently available.

As to the issue of *name suppression* you raise for *all the crew who were implicated in the sinking*, those persons do not have "name suppression". The issue of name suppression can only arise once disciplinary actions have commenced. The NZDF does not control name suppression. Should disciplinary action be undertaken, in either a Summary Trial or Court Martial jurisdiction, then name suppression could be sought. This is a matter that those subject to the disciplinary action can action.

Should name suppression be sought, it will be a matter for the relevant body determining that disciplinary action to decide whether: name suppression is granted; and, if so, the nature, scope, and duration of any name suppression order put in place.

The names of HMNZS Manawanui crew members are withheld from the publicly available copy of the Court of Inquiry report in order to protect privacy in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Such information is also withheld in accordance with section 6(c) of the OIA to prevent the prejudice to the maintenance of the law, namely the ongoing investigations into the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. The remuneration information that you seek is also withheld to protect protect privacy.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/Presidents-and-Assembling-Authoritys-Guide-to-Courts-of-Inquiry.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See also Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971, section 200S.

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](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