



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

OIA-2025-5556

28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]@pmn.co.nz

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 6 October 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information relating to the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui.

***Communications with Samoa***

- Correspondence (letters, emails, meeting notes, cables, aide memoires) between the NZ Govt and Govt of Samoa relating to the incident, environmental response, compensation discussions and the payment decision.

***Payment decision***

- Cabinet papers, briefings, advice and cost assessments used to determine the \$6m payment, including how the sum was calculated and any alternative options considered.
- Any legal advice from treasury/finance guidance on the nature of the payment.

I understand you have made the same request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The above parts of your request are more closely related to the activities of that Ministry and they will provide a response accordingly with no transfer under the OIA necessary.

***Response and follow up actions***

- Updates, briefings or internal advice on plans for the wreck's future (removal, mitigation, monitoring)
- Any recommendations, policy changes or staff changes within NZDF or MFAT resulting from the incident.

The future of the wreck remains under active consideration and final decisions have not yet been made. Considerations by the New Zealand Defence Force are therefore withheld in full in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs.

Recommendations from the Court of Inquiry are publicly available on the Defence Force website<sup>1</sup>. All of these are being progressed; for instance: the New Zealand Defence Force Maritime Authority has been established to oversee the Defence Force seaworthiness system; a revised risk management system has been instituted by the Royal New Zealand Navy with a risk training programme being delivered across the Navy; and, work streams are

<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)

improving various aspects of training including requirements, conduct, and records, as well as the subsequent engagement of trained personnel.

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