



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

OIA-2025-5615

15<sup>th</sup>

December 2025

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 10 December 2025, to both the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Defence, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- Any briefings, reports, assessments, aide memoires, memoranda, or other documents produced regarding the replacement of the frigates, including but not exclusive to any preliminary conversations regarding acquiring frigates, from between September 1 and December 10, 2025.
- Any briefings, reports, assessments, aide memoires, memoranda, or other documents, including submissions to other agencies' work, produced regarding the Northland dry dock project, from between September 1 and December 10, 2025.
- Any correspondence related to comments made by UK Minister Chris Bryant regarding the dry dock project: UK minister queries viability of Northland dry dock without British frigates

The first part of your request will be addressed by the Ministry of Defence.

While the Ministry for Business, Innovation, and Employment is the lead agency for the Northland drydock project, there is mention of this project in a Cabinet paper titled *New Zealand Defence Force: Future Naval Base Programme Business Case*. This paper is currently being prepared for proactive release in early 2026 by the Associate Minister of Defence. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA.

With respect to the last part of your request, no relevant information has been found. This part of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) 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](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