



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

OIA-2024-5173

13th November 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 15 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

Was the HMNZS Manawanui using any type of biofuel at the time of the incident? If so: a) What specific type(s) of biofuel was being used? b) What was the ratio of biofuel to conventional fuel? c) When was the use of biofuel initiated on this vessel? If biofuel was in use: a) Was this part of a trial or ongoing program? b) What were the objectives of using biofuel on the Manawanui?

Has there been any indication that the use of biofuel, if applicable, may have contributed to the incident that led to the sinking? If so, please provide details.

Are there any reports or assessments related to the performance or safety of biofuel use on the Manawanui or other NZDF vessels?

If biofuel was not in use on the Manawanui, are there any plans to trial or implement biofuel use on this class of vessel or other NZDF ships in the future?

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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

¹ <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>



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OIA-2024-5175

14th November 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 8 October 2024 to the Minister of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA): *information on the steps being taken to assess and mitigate the environmental damage, contain the oil spill, and support the affected communities*. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

The priority of the NZDF and the primary avenue of support to Samoa has been managing any environmental damage resulting from the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information about the ongoing recovery effort is being proactively released on the NZDF website¹. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information that you requested is publicly available.

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.

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Yours sincerely

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OIA-2024-5176

13th November 2024

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 17 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information:

Did the HMNZS Manawanui encounter any mechanical, electrical or technical issues enroute from Devonport to Samoa during its recent journey to conduct surveying work off the southern coast of Upolu. If so, I request all communications, including but not limited to emailed updates or text messages from the captain, commanding officer, or bridge officer of the HMNZS Manawanui to NZDF staff in New Zealand which relate to these issues.

I request a copy of the most recent maintenance report or survey report for the HMNZS Manawanui, including but not limited to information about any detected deficiencies, and or remedial mechanical/electrical work undertaken during the last survey.

I request copies of all emailed communications between the captain, commanding officer, or bridge officer on the HMNZS Manawanui and between staff at NZDF in New Zealand between 3pm Saturday 5 October and 7pm Sunday 6 October. This should include but not be limited to any information regarding any mechanical, electrical, or technical issues onboard the HMNZS Manawanui just prior to the vessel's grounding.

I request all communication between crew on the HMNZS Manawanui and the Rescue Coordination Centre on Saturday 5 October and Sunday 6 October.

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF



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OIA-2024-5168

OIA-2024-5187

gm
November 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your emails of 13 October 2024 to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and 1 November 2024 to the Office of the Prime Minister requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *Why Manawanui, nznaval hydrographic vessel was in foreign waters? If it was under contract? What were the terms?* Your request sent to the Office of the Prime Minister was transferred to the NZDF in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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OIA-2024-5165

7th November 2024

James
fyi-request-28733-64030082@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

I refer to your email of 11 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

Country and rank/position of any foreign military/intelligence service personal on board the HMS Manawanui at the time the ship struck the reef.

Confirmation of any shipping containers on board, if so what was the contents?

Confirmation of any anchor drag, if so how long in terms of distance and time?

A large amount of information concerning HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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OIA-2024-5153

OIA-2024-5158

5th November 2024



Dear 

I refer to your emails of 7 and 9 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) the following information:

any and all communication within the Navy and/or NZDF that refers to the state of the engines of the Manawanui prior to the vessel sailing. Was there discussion or concern raised in any forum about the vessel's engines and the possibility the Manawanui should not put to sea due to engine problems? If so, I would like communication related to engine issues.

Were there non-Defence Force people on-board Manawanui at the time of the grounding? If so, who were they and what are their roles? Was the Captain's wife on board at the time?

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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OIA-2024-5152

5th November 2024

[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 7 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

Both internal and external communications in the 48 hours pre and post HMNZS Manawanui sinking in Samoa, not limited to, but including emails, text messages, briefings and any other communications.

Any briefings about the HMNZS Manawanui before it departed Auckland and then subsequent briefing after it had left Auckland.

The dynamic positioning ticket briefing to staff (if one existed).

A list of repairs conducted on the HMNZS Manawanui in the last 12 months.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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OIA-2024-5121

5th November 2024

[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 7 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding any issues with the HMNZS Manawanui being able to operate produced in the two weeks before Sunday, October 6, 2024.
- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding the HMNZS Manawanui's tasking for Saturday, October 5, 2024, produced in the week before Sunday, October 6, 2024.
- Any briefings, situation reports, advisories, and other documentation (excluding correspondence) produced by HMNZS Manawanui crew, naval staff, and joint forces, regarding the Manawanui running aground and capsizing, from midday Saturday, October 5, 2024 and Monday, October 7, 2024.
- Correspondence between NZDF executive staff, chief of navy and his office, joint forces staff, and Minister Judith Collins and her office, regarding the HMNZS Manawanui, and its running aground and capsizing, from midday Saturday, October 5, 2024 to 1pm Sunday, October 6, 2024.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5150

5th
November 2024

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 6 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *any communications to and between the Minister of Defence and/or the NZDF regarding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui, such as text messages or emails, including the Minister and/or NZDF's initial response to such communication.*

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. The requested information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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OIA-2024-5149

31 October 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 6 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *the name of the person who left the sinking HMNZS Manawanui last*

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. The requested information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The New Zealand Defence Force intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF