



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

OIA-2023-4698

16 May 2023

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your email of 17 April 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all correspondence between French government officials / defense personnel and New Zealand MoD/NZDF officials relating to the operations of the FS Vendemiaire in New Zealand territorial waters this year.*

There is no correspondence between French Government officials and New Zealand Defence Force personnel or Ministry of Defence staff regarding FS Vendemiaire's operations. The FS Vendemiaire was undergoing maintenance at the Devonport Naval Base dry dock and remained under French command. It was a commercial arrangement between Babcock and the French Government and occurred over the following period:

- FS Vendemiaire arrived at Devonport Naval Base on 8 January 2023.
- Refit began on 10 January 2023.
- Entered the dry dock on 2 February 2023.
- Refloated on 27 March 2023.
- Refit was completed on 6 April 2023.
- Sea trials were conducted on 8 April 2023.
- FS Vendemiaire departed Devonport Naval Base on 9 April 2023.

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

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF