



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

OIA-2023-4755

20 July 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 16 June 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the below information about the 16 June flight of a Royal New Zealand Air Force King Air, tail number NZ2350. I apologise for the delayed response.

Could I please make a request under the Official Information Act for copies of all communications, memos, texts, emails, photos and flight reports in relation to this flight. Please include a copy of the planned flight path.

I am also seeking communications following the incident, including any with the Defence Minister and media.

The King Air aircraft does not have a data management system; therefore, there is no flight path plotted for pilots to view where they have been tracking during the flight. As this was a routine training flight there are few details available regarding the flight path. The nature of the upper air portion of the flight involved manoeuvres and tracks between manoeuvres within the training area therefore there is no navigation plan or map produced. The aircraft was to fly to the M302 training area in the Taranaki Bight in order to perform a number of instrument approaches to Ohakea followed by circuits. Further details are provided by the Officer Commanding No 42 Squadron in his email of 16 June 2023, within Enclosure 3.

Relevant documentation is provided at Enclosures 1 and 2, being the pre-flight authorisation and the 42 Squadron flying programme respectively. Communications regarding the flight are at Enclosures 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Where indicated, personal information is withheld to protect privacy in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. Signatures and contact details are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(k) of the OIA to avoid the malicious or inappropriate use of staff information, such as phishing, scams or unsolicited advertising.

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

Enclosures:

1. Force Element Management System document
2. 42 Sqn Flying Programme 16 Jun 2023
3. Email correspondence
4. Text messages between the Air Component Commander and Chief of Air Force
5. Text messages between the Chief of Defence Force and the Chief Advisor Public Affairs
6. Text messages between 42 SQN and Defence Public Affairs
7. Text messages between the Media Team

ACTION BEFORE FLIGHT

Aircraft Captain

I understand

- a. the task,
- b. the crew is capable of safely performing the task,
- c. the flight has been planned and briefed IAW briefed instructions,
- d. that I will verify its execution IAW the briefed instructions, and
- e. that IAW DR32(2) "The Officer-in-Charge or any authorised person of a military aircraft, may for the purpose of maintaining the security of the aircraft, detain and search any person who is about to enter or leave the aircraft".

s.9(2)(k)

Authorising Officer:

s.9(2)(a)

I am satisfied that:

- a. the crew has been adequately briefed on the task and flight,
- b. the flight and task has been adequately planned by the crew,
- c. the crew is competent to undertake the flight and task.
- d. FARM process has been completed;

FARM attached
Permission Received

No additional risks identified

Serial Number:
23-42SQN-0580-000

KA350
NZ2350

Duty or Practice Ordered
CAT CX/IRT

Est. Duration
2.5

IAW:
~~IFE~~
BRIEF

Status:
Open

From	To	Doors close local	Takeoff	Land	Day	Night	NVG	Inst. act.	Inst. sim.	Total	Duty carried out or reason for not doing so	Captains Initials
OHAKEA	OHAKEA	16 Jun 2023 1330	1351	1545	1.9			0.6	1.9		DLO	s.9(2)(k)
<u>Duty Task(s)</u>		<u>O/P Class</u>	<u>Hours</u>									
Pilot Continuation Training		3.1.2.23										

Crew

QFI s.9(2)(a) (Captain)
PILOT s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(k)

Aircraft Captain:

s.9(2)(k)

Flight Completed:

Notes: DCO

DPCO

DNCO

Prepared By: s.9(2)(a)

Crew Categorisations

Full Name	Cat Type	Cat Rating	Expiry Date	Extension Date
s.6(a)				

ACTION BEFORE FLIGHT

Crew hours in last 7 days - max 40 hrs - Instructor Sorties in last

Full Name	Day Hours	Night Hours	NVG Hours	Sim Hours	Instructor Sorties	Total
s.9(2)(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0
s.9(2)(a)	0.2	1.9	0.0	0.0	0	2.1

Expired Crew Currencies

s.9(2)(a)							
Serial Number	Activity	Type	No. Required	Period	No. Completed	Last Completed	Extension Date
PLT35C09	KA350 Simulator training	Core	1.0	12.0	0	07 Jun 2022	

s.9(2)(a)							
Serial Number	Activity	Type	No. Required	Period	No. Completed	Last Completed	Extension Date
PLT35C09	KA350 Simulator training	Core	1.0	12.0	0	07 Jun 2022	

7 Jun 23 } s.9(2)(k)
 7 Jun 23 }

42 Squadron Flying Program for Friday 16 June 2023

	0600	0700	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800
NZ 2350 S				2600lbs	s.9(2)(a)	F0579 A CAT UGRD FLT1		2600lbs	s.9(2)(a)	F0580 CAT CX / IRT			
NZ 2351 S			3100lbs P/O, F700T	s.9(2)(a)				OH-??-OH			F0581 MAR FLT5		
NZ 2352 S													
NZ 2353 PHASE			2600lbs, AWAY KIT 0920L TOW, F700T	s.9(2)(a)	OH-WB-CH				s.9(2)(a)	CH-CH F0577	** NZK420 AWAY 16-18JUN **		
				s.9(2)(a)	WIGRAM FLYPAST	NZK420			s.9(2)(a)	FLYPAST PRACTICE			
VAPT S													
GMC 1													
GMC 2													
NOTES													

	1800	1900	2000	2100	2200	2300	2400
NZ 2350 S							
NZ 2351 S							
NZ 2352 PHASE							
NZ 2353 S			** NZK420 AWAY 16-18JUN **				
NOTES							
	TOIL AWAY LEAVE				MORNING BRIEF SECURITY ORDERLY DUTY OPSO		

AL 0

ALL TACNAV AND PILOT CTs ON
PODDED A/C REQUIRE 'PLUGS IN'

MSN/POD A/C 3000LB IS STD

FUEL IS 2600lbs STANDARD UNLESS
OTHERWISE DETAILED

Dist: OH.A3.WK; 14 SQN S&S;
s.9(2)(a) OH AV FUEL



From: Shearer, Robert, GPCAPT
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2023 5:45 p.m.
To: Costley, Tim, WGCDR
Cc: s.9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane urgent

Tim,

I appreciate OC42's intentions are sound with his prompt reply, but needs to go through you as the CO, so that the command lines of reporting are established early in case it gets a little more interesting.

Rob

From: Costley, Tim, WGCDR <s.9(2)(k)>
Date: Friday, 16 Jun 2023 at 17:35
To: Sexton, Shaun, AIRCDRE <s.9(2)(k)>
Cc: Shearer, Robert, GPCAPT <s.9(2)(k)>
Subject: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane urgent

Sir. Below for your awareness.

From: Dalglish, Samantha <Samantha.Stevenson@nzdf.mil.nz>
Date: Friday, 16 Jun 2023 at 16:41
To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>, Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>, Costley, Tim, WGCDR <s.9(2)(k)>
Subject: RE: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane urgent

Hi s.9(2)(a)

Thank you for getting back to us in such a short timeframe.

As there was a lot of discussion about this in OCDF I have passed your email on to them also and they appreciated it.

We have let the journalist know the below but we have your additional information if we need to clarify anything further.

This was completely unintentional. The Aircraft was on a training flight and doing steep turns and stalling manoeuvres.

Thanks for your help late on a Friday afternoon.

Sam

Samantha Dalglish
Media Advisor -DPA, Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force



From: s.9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2023 4:26 p.m.
To: Dalgleish, Samantha <Samantha.Stevenson@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>; Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>; Costley, Tim, WGCDR <s.9(2)(k)>
Subject: RE: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane urgent

Good afternoon,

The sortie was a combined Instrument Rating Test and Day Handling Check for a B Category Pilot. KNG 50 entered the M302 training area and was instructed to hold outside 25 NM.

You will see from the aircraft's flight path that we departed Ohakea, turned right and flew straight to our training area. From there we conducted a stall for practice and as we were subsequently tracking to the North East the candidate conducted a steep turn to the left at 45 degrees AOB for a full 360 degrees which was reversed into a right hand steep turn at 45 degrees AOB for another 360 degrees.

From there we requested to vacate the area to conduct an instrument approach straight in on runway 09 at Ohakea. Prior to flying radar vectors the aircraft entered a left hand orbit to prepare the flight management and navigation system. Once ready the radar vectors commenced. The aircraft initially continued north east and was reversed around to the West to intercept the extended centreline to conduct the ILS approach from RWY 09.

It was not the intention of the crew, and certainly not mine as aircraft captain to draw any phallic symbol in the sky.

Yours sincerely,

s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a)
Offr Commanding No 42 Squadron - 42SQN, NO 42 SQN RNZAF
Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa | Royal New Zealand Air Force
Internal: s.9(2)(k)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Dalgleish, Samantha
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2023 3:53 p.m.
To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>; Williams, David <David.Williams@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane urgent

Hi there

Reasonably urgent query below.
Unfortunately looking on flight radar there is a definite phallic symbol that has been mapped out.

We are happy to assist you getting a response done for this asap.

Dave is giving you a call also.

Thanks
Sam

Samantha Dagleish

Media Advisor -DPA, Defence Public Affairs
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force
M: s.9(2)(k) | Internal: s.9(2)(k)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Caroline Williams [<mailto:caroline.williams@stuff.co.nz>]
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2023 3:26 p.m.
To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane

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Kia ora,

We are seeking NZDF comment on the flight path of a RNZAF plane Beech 300 Super King Air 350 (KNG50) which is currently in the air.

<https://www.flightradar24.com/KNG50/30bcb853>

It appears the plane's flight path has drawn a penis shape off the west coast near Tangimoana.

We will be publishing a story on this shortly. Please respond to the following questions by 4.30pm.

- What is this plane doing?
- Is this appropriate behaviour from RNZAF staff?
- Will any action be taken against those involved?
- We note that today marks 100 years of military aviation in New Zealand. Some might see it as a disrespectful day for this kind of stunt. What is the NZDF's response to this?

Ngā mihi,
Caroline Williams
Reporter - Auckland
North Shore, Housing and Infrastructure
+64 27 212 9807
[@carolinewnz](https://www.instagram.com/carolinewnz)
Work days: Tues-Sat
Level 7 Cider Building,
4 Williamson Ave,
Grey Lynn, Auckland 1021

From: Shearer, Robert, GPCAPT
Sent: Monday, 19 June 2023 11:38 a.m.
To: Costley, Tim, WGCDR; s.9(2)(a)
s.9(2)(a)
Cc: s.9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: OIA-2023-4755 - FW: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane unclassified

Concur with your direction to keep flying 50 and for COFTW to be the POC. The ACC has suggested DPA lean in on this unintended outcome to routine training activities to avoid sensationalism.

Rob

From: Costley, Tim, WGCDR <s.9(2)(k)>
Date: Monday, 19 Jun 2023 at 11:10
To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>, s.9(2)(a)
<s.9(2)(k)>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>, Shearer, Robert, GPCAPT
<s.9(2)(k)>
Subject: RE: OIA-2023-4755 - FW: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane unclassified

Thanks s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a) can this please go through the CO (s.9(2)(a)) for both preservation of CoC and because s.9(2)(a) was involved so helpful to give him some space.

BCDR - I have directed OC42 to keep flying KNG50 and we are not keeping it on the ground to preserve CVR and they should keep up routine operations. This is a low-level routine OIA and we will provide detail appropriately but not stop training.

Ngā mihi,

Wing Commander Tim Costley BSc MSc

Commanding Officer

Flying Training Wing, Ohakea

TE TAUAARANGI O AOTEAROA (RNZAF)

T +s.9(2)(k) Internal s.9(2)(k) M s.9(2)(k)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

www.missingwingmantrust.org.nz



From: s.9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 19 June 2023 10:59 a.m.
To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>

Cc: Costley, Tim, WGCDR <s.9(2)(k)>; s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>
Subject: FW: OIA-2023-4755 - FW: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane unclassified

Sir,

FYI – COFTW(s)

Regarding the OIA inquiry into the CAT Check/IRT conducted last Friday;

The aircraft CVR has a capacity of 2 hours so any audio data is likely no longer available. The aircraft was flown for approximately a further 1.2 hours following the upper air exercises and then it flew to Christchurch to participate in the Wigram Air Show for a total of 2.1. Furthermore it has been flying a CT this morning which would add at least a 0.7. As soon as I received this email I directed the aircraft to land to attempt to preserve whatever data we can.

Until we determine that this data is unrecoverable we will not fly the aircraft. I am unsure of the process of CVR data collection and recovery by the RNZAF, or whether this is required in this case. Can you please provide some additional guidance?

For your information I was the aircraft captain for this sortie, I don't know whether this would influence a decision as to who would be the most appropriate person to collate this data, or whether it should be done by 42 SQN internally. Nonetheless, 42 SQN will make whatever data is requested available to whomever is nominated.

Regards,

s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a)

Offr Commanding No 42 Squadron - 42SQN, NO 42 SQN RNZAF
Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa | Royal New Zealand Air Force
Internal: s.9(2)(k)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s.9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 19 June 2023 10:08 a.m.
To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>; s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>
Subject: RE: OIA-2023-4755 - FW: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane unclassified

s.9(2)(a)

Please see below OIA re the flight path on Friday.

I know you have sent through some details to the media but as this is now OIA can you and your staff collate all communications re the flight.

Please just answer the details of the OIA and note Ministerial Services email below. If there was a planned flight path pass that through. Info through your command chain and back to myself. I will work with s.9(2)(a) to view the documents and send through the documents that match the OIA.

3rd July info back to WN is the target date.

Regards

s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a)

Chief of Staff Ohakea, Base Headquarters Ohakea
Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa | Royal New Zealand Air Force
M: s.9(2)(k) | Internal: s.9(2)(k)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



A FORCE FOR
NEW ZEALAND

From: s.9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 19 June 2023 9:28 a.m.

To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>

Subject: OIA-2023-4755 - FW: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane unclassified

Importance: High

Good morning s.9(2)(a)

We have received the below OIA seeking communications regarding subject KINGAIR flight.

Could I please make a request under the Official Information Act for copies of all communications, memos, texts, emails, photos and flight reports in relation to this flight. Please include a copy of the planned flight path. The due date for this information is Monday 17 July 2023.

In relation to the initial request (bottom email) it would appear 42 Sqn have responded as detailed and the reporter is now looking for additional information.

You will also see the Ministerial Services response below which may assist in refining the response.

Cheers

s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a)

Staff Offr External Information Requests, Air Staff
Te Tauaarangi o Aotearoa | Royal New Zealand Air Force
M: s.9(2)(k) | Internal: s.9(2)(k)
www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Ministerial Services

Sent: Monday, 19 June 2023 8:53 a.m.

To: s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>; s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>; s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a) <s.9(2)(k)>

Subject: FW: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane unclassified OIA-2023-4755

Good morning,

Ministerial services has received the below request for information. Excluding texts and emails, Is this information that Air holds and is readily accessible? In regards to emails, can Air suggest some scoping details that might have been regularly used in any email conversations around this flight, that we can use to conduct a realistic email search? We would appreciate your input by 3 July.

I have attached 42 SQN's response to the Media team on this subject, FYI.

As ever, I'm happy to discuss this.

Kind regards

s.9(2)(a)

Ministerial Advisor - OCDF, Chief of Staff HQ NZDF
Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

Internal: s.9(2)(k)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Caroline Williams [<mailto:caroline.williams@stuff.co.nz>]
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2023 5:06 p.m.
To: Dagleish, Samantha <Samantha.Stevenson@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Re: FW: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane unclassified

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Kia ora, thanks Samantha.

Could I please make a request under the Official Information Act for copies of all communications, memos, texts, emails, photos and flight reports in relation to this flight. Please include a copy of the planned flight path. The due date for this information is Monday 17 July 2023.

Ngā mihi nui,
Caroline

Caroline Williams
Reporter - Auckland
North Shore, Housing and Infrastructure
+64 27 212 9807
@carolinewnz
Work days: Tues-Sat
Level 7 Cider Building,
4 Williamson Ave,
Grey Lynn, Auckland 1021



On Fri, Jun 16, 2023 at 4:31 PM Dalglish, Samantha <Samantha.Stevenson@nzdf.mil.nz> wrote:

Hi Caroline

From an NZDF spokesperson

This was completely unintentional. The Aircraft was on a training flight and doing steep turns and stalling manoeuvres.

Kind regards

Samantha Dalglish

Media Advisor -DPA, Defence Public Affairs

Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa | New Zealand Defence Force

M: **s.9(2)(k)** | Internal: **s.9(2)(k)**

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: Caroline Williams [mailto:caroline.williams@stuff.co.nz]

Sent: Friday, 16 June 2023 3:26 p.m.

To: @Media <Media@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: Stuff - Penis flight path by RNZAF plane

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Ngā mihi,

Caroline Williams

Reporter - Auckland

North Shore, Housing and Infrastructure

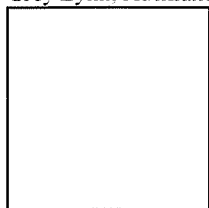
+64 27 212 9807

[@carolinewnz](https://www.instagram.com/carolinewnz)

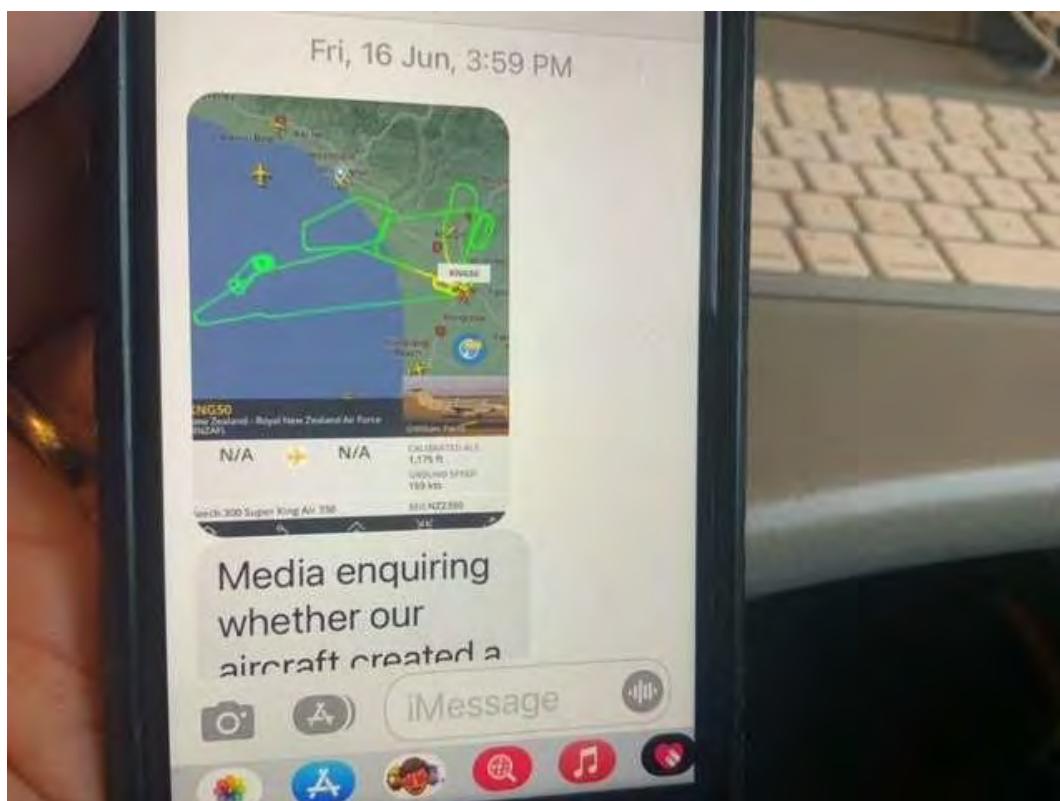
Work days: Tues-Sat

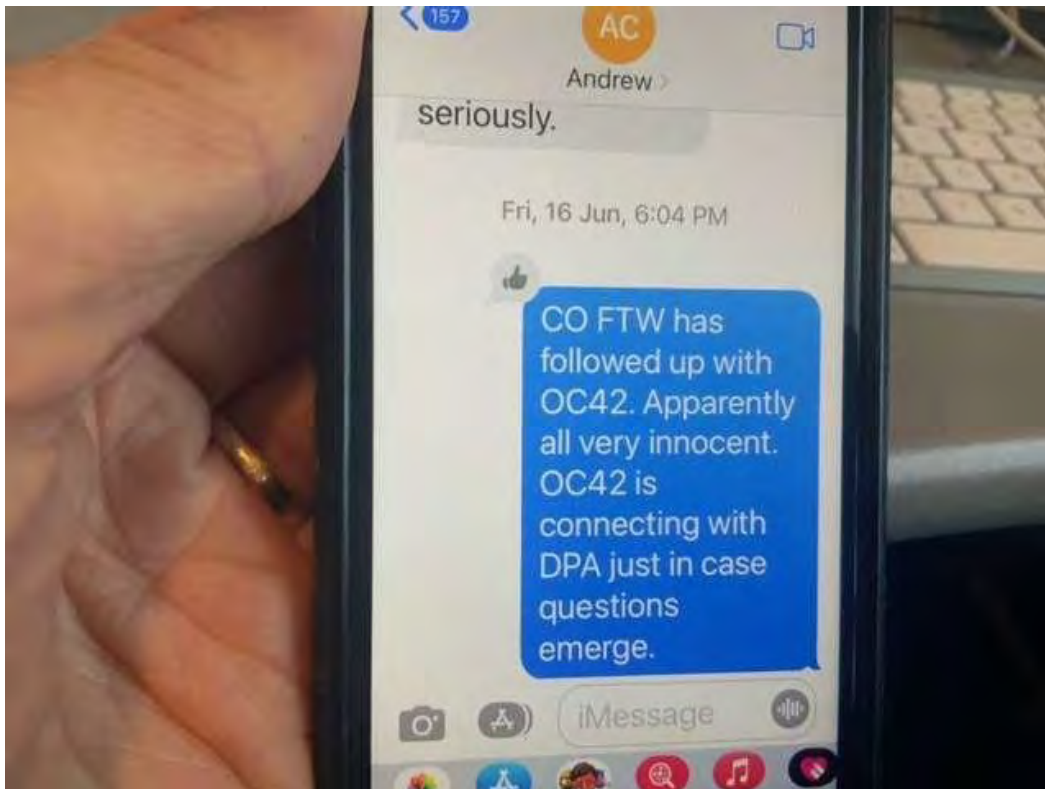
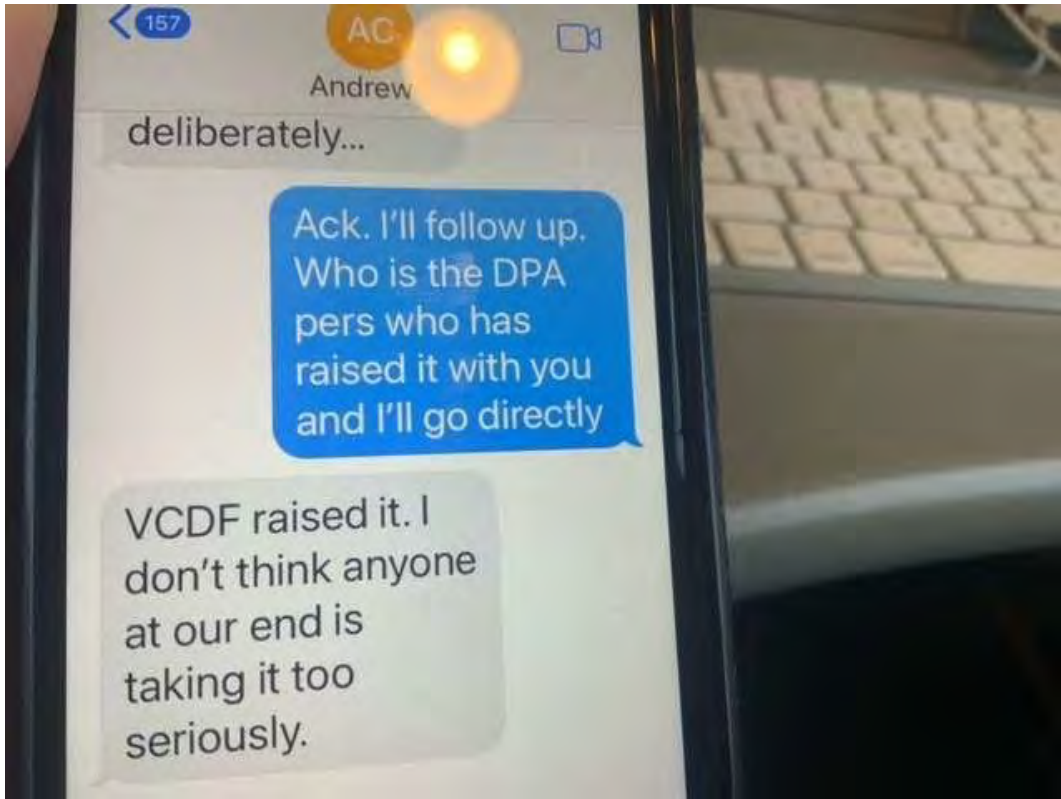
Level 7 Cider Building.

4 Williamson Ave.
Grey Lynn, Auckland 1021

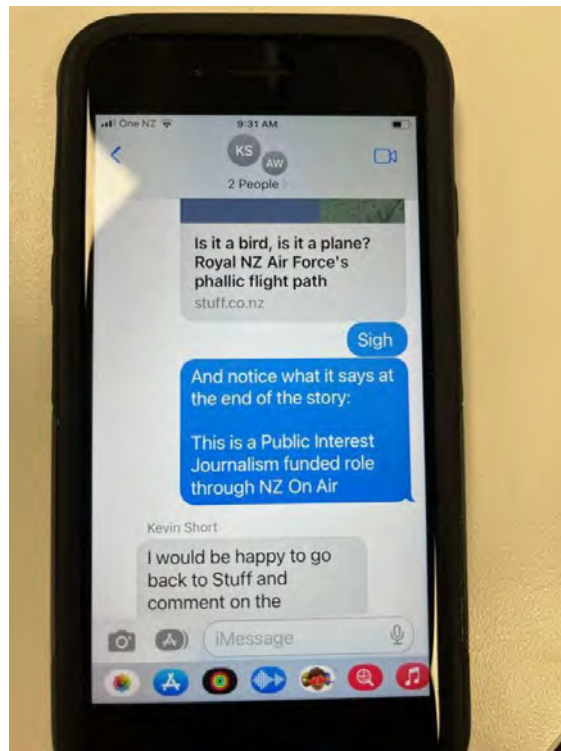


Text messages between Air Component Commander and Chief of Air Force

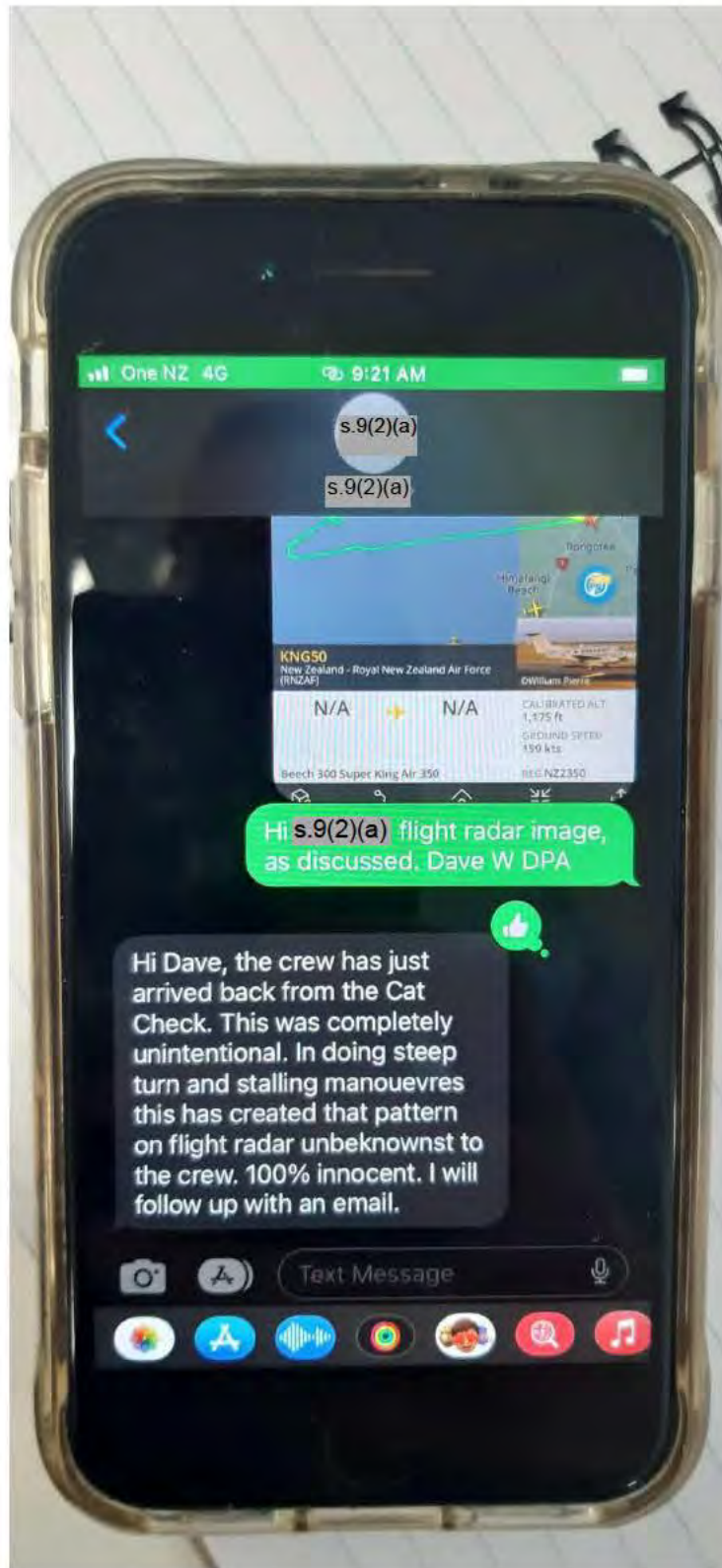




Text messages between Chief of Defence Force and Chief Advisor Public Affairs on 16 June.



Text messages between Principal Media Advisor and 42 Squadron RNZAF on 16 June.



WhatsApp conversation NZDF Media team 16 June.

