



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

OIA-2023-4784

29 August 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 18 July 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all correspondence between the New Zealand Defence Force and the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet between August 22, 2022 and May 31 2023, on the subject of the late Private David Stewart being nominated for a New Zealand Cross. I'd also like all correspondence between the Minister of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force over the same time period on the same subject.*

Relevant email correspondence is enclosed. Where indicated, the personal information of other staff members and a New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Staff Officer are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect privacy. The contact details of NZDF personnel and staff are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(k) of the OIA to avoid malicious or inappropriate use of staff information, such as phishing, scams or unsolicited advertising. Private Stewart's nomination for a Level One Bravery Award is withheld in full in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, as explained above, and section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the supply of information provided on a basis of confidence. Information concerning the nomination is withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA, as explained above, and section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion. On page 7 of the PDF Enclosure, a paragraph concerning a different matter is also withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, as explained above.

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

Enclosure:

1. Relevant email correspondence

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 26 August 2022 4:20 p.m.
To: s. 9(2)(a)
Cc: Beck, Darren, LTCOL; Ministerial Services; McLeod, John
Subject: RE: Final Briefing Note for Meeting with Minister Wed 31 Aug [SEEMAIL]
Attachments: DPB for MINDEF Meeting in Relation to Bravery Awards 1990 Tragedy on Mt Ruapehu.pdf

Hi sir

DPB attached.

Regards

s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(a)

Staff Officer Support to CDF - OCDF, Chief of Staff HQ NZDF
Ngāti Tūmataunga | New Zealand Army

s. 9(2)(a)

www.nzdf.mil.nz

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA
NZ ARMY

From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 10:04 a.m.
To: Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>
Cc: s. 9(2)(a); s. 9(2)(k) Beck, Darren, LTCOL
s. 9(2)(k); McLeod, John s. 9(2)(k)
Subject: FW: Final Briefing Note for Meeting with Minister Wed 31 Aug SEEMAIL

Hi team,



Can I please have the final briefing note for the Minister in the office NLT Tue 30th for Wed's meeting.

Ngā Mihi/ Thanks,

s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(a)

Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence | Office of Hon Peeni Henare

Minister of Defence | Minister for Whānau Ora

Associate Minister of Health | Associate Minister of Tourism | Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing) |

s. 9(2)(a) Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Bernard Isherwood s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 9:21 AM

To: s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: Meeting with Minister Wed 31 Dec

Good morning s. 9(2)(a)

The memorial dedication service on 13 Aug in Linton Camp went very well.

We look forward to the meeting with the minister next Wednesday at 1630hrs.

As advised, our group will be, in addition to myself, WO1 (Rtd) Bob Davies and Mr Joe Harawira, Nagti Awa.

Are you able to advise if there will be anyone attending from HQ NZDF?

In preparation for the meeting, I have attached some documentation and request that this be made available to the minister prior.

The documents are:

- The Listener article that gives a good summary of the incident
- A letter of support from s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i)
- A letter of support from s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i)
- A letter of support from s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i)
- An affidavit from s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i)

I would also be grateful if you could advise the access arrangements at the Beehive.

Will there be somebody from your office to meet us and do we need to bring ID?

Thank you,

Bernard

DOT-POINT BRIEF FOR MINISTER OF DEFENCE

MEETING IN RELATION TO THE BRAVERY HONOURS AWARDED TO NZDF PERSONNEL AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE 1990 TRAGEDY ON MT RUAPEHU


Purpose

1. To provide the Minister of Defence with briefing notes prior to a meeting on 31 Aug with Mr Bernard Isherwood, Warrant Officer (Rtd) Bob Davies and Mr Joe Harawira in relation to the bravery honours awarded to NZDF personnel as a consequence of the 1990 tragedy on Mt Ruapehu. Specifically the group is seeking an upgrade to the level of the bravery award posthumously made to Private David Stewart.

Context

2. On 9 to 12 Aug 90, a group of 13 NZDF personnel (two instructors, 10 soldiers and one naval rating) were involved in a Waiouru Army Adventurous Training Centre mountaineering course on Mt Ruapehu. The weather deteriorated significantly while the group was on the mountain. They were unable to reach shelter and left exposed to the extreme weather conditions. Six of the personnel on the mountain died before assistance was able to reach them.

s. 9(2)(ba)(i), s. 9(2)(g)(i)



¹ The New Zealand bravery awards are awarded over four levels. The level of an award is generally determined by the nature of the incident which has resulted in the act of bravery, the degree of risk to the life of the person performing the act and their personal skills or qualifications relevant to the incident, and whether the actions were taken with disregard to their own safety.

Retrospective Reviews of Gallantry and Bravery Awards

7. The award to Private Stewart had been through successive levels of review and had been fully assessed by both Army and the Cabinet office. Decisions were made by those entrusted to make final recommendations, including the Prime Minister, as is the case with all gallantry and bravery awards. These individuals are also the ones who have a more in-depth understanding of the key elements of each level of bravery or gallantry and undertake research and assessment against that criteria for reasons of consistency, clarity and comparison. As always it will remain partly subjective.

8. There have been regular calls to retrospectively review either the non-awarding or level of an award. Most of these relate to gallantry. Governments have repeatedly refused to make retrospective judgements preferring to leave it to the decision-makers at the time. Generally, a five year rule has applied to reviewing past honours decisions. The underpinning principle is that decisions should be made while all the relevant information is available, recall of the events is clear, and the actions concerned can be considered against the standards and values of the time and other contemporary examples.

- Last year the Prime Minister reinforced this position in relation to retrospective consideration of Vietnam gallantry awards

Campaign to Elevate the Award to Private Stewart

9. There has been a campaign to have the level of the award to Private Stewart, in particular, elevated to a higher level to recognise the bravery that was noted by the Court of Inquiry into the incident. This has largely been led by Mr Bernard Isherwood, who was President of the Court of Inquiry in 1990, and Warrant Officer (Rtd) Bob Davies. Recent engagement on this has included:

- A meeting with the Chief of Defence Force (CDF) on 20 Apr 21.
- Anzac Day 2021 publicity through the media.
- A dedication ceremony for Private Stewart held at Linton Military Camp on 13 Aug and which attracted media attention.

Summary

s. 9(2)(ba)(i), s. 9(2)(g)(i)

11. The NZDF position supports the process followed and the decisions made.

12. It is recommended that Mr John McLeod attend the meeting on 31 Aug.



AJ WOODS
AIRCDRE
COS HQNZDF

Archive Manager

Export

From: [Mcleod, John](#)

Sent: Mon, 29 Aug 2022 03:21:58 GMT

To: **s. 9(2)(a)**

Subject: Briefing Ruapehu Bravery awards Aug 22.docx Seemail In Confidence

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.



[Briefing Ruapehu Bravery awards Aug 22.docx \(106Kb\)](#)

s. 9(2)(a)

You have the Dot Point Brief **s. 9(2)(a)** for the Minister's meeting with Bernie Isherwood. Attached is my report to CDF on the Ruapehu bravery awards process which includes more detail and may be useful to you as a backgrounder.

Cheers

John



Briefing Ruapehu Bravery awards Aug 22.docx

[Briefing Ruapehu Bravery awards Aug 22.docx](#)

Archive Manager

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From: [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#) Sent: Thu, 01 Sep 2022 02:09:49 GMT
To: [McLeod, John](#)
CC: [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#); [Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE](#); s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Seemail In Confidence Ruapehu Gallantry Awards
[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora John,

Thanks very much for those updates – both very helpful. We'll keep an eye out for the Ruapehu submission.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel

Rachel Hayward (she/her)
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington
6011, New Zealand

s. 9(2)(a)

Email:

Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz


From: McLeod, John s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Thursday, 1 September 2022 12:17 pm
To: Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: David Williams [DPMC] <David.Williams@dpmc.govt.nz>; Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE
s. 9(2)(k); s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: Seemail In Confidence Ruapehu Gallantry Awards

*** [SEEMAIL] This message may contain classified information ***

Hi Rachel

Last night I was with the Minister of Defence when he met with Bernie Isherwood, Bob Davies and Joe Harawira regarding the bravery award for David Stewart. The Minister was well-briefed and across the issues. He understands the challenges and issues around the status of the award as well as the implications of any change, but he agreed that he would support the recommendation for an upgrade to the Prime Minister. Bernie Isherwood was proposing to send DPMC direct a recommendation for upgrading of the award but he agreed to send it direct to the Minister who would put a covering note on it to the PM (drafted by me as I understand it). His intention is that this be done well before Christmas.

Out of Scope - s. 9(2)(g)(i)



Happy to have an off-line conversation with more information.
Ngā mihi

John

John McLeod, ONZM

Director

Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group

HQ NZ Defence Force

Mobile: s. 9(2)(k)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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From: [McLeod, John](#)



Sent: Tue, 20 Sep 2022 23:38:10 GMT



To: [s. 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)


Subject: Seemail FW: PROCESS FOR REVIEW of Nomination for Bravery Award - Pte DEW Stewart -IN-CONFIDENCE

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

 [Nomination for the New Zealand Cross for S53606 Private David Edward Whawhai](#)

[Stewart.docx](#) (24Kb)  [s. 9\(2\)\(a\), s. 9\(2\)\(ba\)\(i\)](#)  [s. 9\(2\)\(a\), s. 9\(2\)\(ba\)\(i\)](#)

[Pte Stewart.docx](#) (14Kb)  [s. 9\(2\)\(a\), s. 9\(2\)\(ba\)\(i\)](#)  [Letter of](#)

[Endorsement- Private David Stewart.docx](#) (70Kb)  [231763 Bravery Award nomination form - Current version \(October 2021\).DOCX](#) (41Kb)

Attached is draft letter for the Minister to send to the Prime Minister regarding a review of the bravery award made to Private David Stewart. The letter reflects the Minister's direction. I have consulted the Cabinet Office (David Williams) who was keen for the NZDF to have a view. I have avoided that in the draft because this is the Minister's position, not that of officials.

John

*John McLeod, ONZM**Director**Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group**HQ NZ Defence Force*Mobile: [s. 9\(2\)\(k\)](#)www.nzdf.mil.nz

 cid:image001.png@01D78DC4.1977FF80

From: [s. 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Sent: Friday, 9 September 2022 2:47 p.m.

To: [McLeod, John](#) [s. 9\(2\)\(k\)](#)Cc: [Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE](#) [s. 9\(2\)\(k\)](#); [Beck, Darren, LTCOL](#)[s. 9\(2\)\(k\)](#); Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>

Subject: PROCESS FOR REVIEW of Nomination for Bravery Award - Pte DEW Stewart -IN-CONFIDENCE

Team,

Post the meeting with Bernard Isherwood on the 31st, the Minister agreed to supporting the attached submission for the NZBM review for upgrade to NZC for Private David Stewart for forwarding to the Prime Minister.

Can you please investigate the process and provide advice to get this submission presented in the appropriate format to ensure the Minister is able to sign it and have it forwarded to the PM through the Cabinet Office.

I am happy to remain the point of contact for Bernhard should there be any ongoing engagement.

Ngā Mihi/ Thanks,

s. 9(2)(a)



Red Coat of Arms

s. 9(2)(a)

Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence | Office of Hon Peeni Henare

Minister of Defence | Minister for Whānau Ora

Associate Minister of Health | Associate Minister of Tourism | Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing) |

s. 9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

6160, New Zealand

From: Bernard Isherwood s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 7 September 2022 1:47 PM

To: s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: Nomination for Bravery Award - Pte DEW Stewart

Good afternoon s. 9(2)(a)

Please find attached the Nomination for the NZ Cross for Pte Stewart, together with five Annexes.

As directed, could you please pass to the Minister for his action.

Grateful if you confirm receipt.

Regards,

Bernard

From: McLeod, John s.9(2)(k)
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 9:59 am
To: David Williams [DPMC]
Cc: s. 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: PROCESS FOR REVIEW of Nomination for Bravery Award - Pte DEW Stewart - IN-CONFIDENCE SEEMAIL
Attachments: Nomination for the New Zealand Cross for S53606Private David Edward Whawhai s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i)
231763_Bravery Award nomination form - Current version (October 2021).DOCX

*** [SEEMAIL] This message may contain classified information ***

David

The Minister's staff have sent the request from Bernie Isherwood for the upgrade of Pte Stewart's bravery award over to us to produce a covering letter. I was at the meeting with the Minister and his intention is to support it to the Prime Minister. In order to keep the process relatively straight forward I proposed just a covering letter, noting the representations made to the Minister, and his support for the case. Separately, I would provide the Cabinet Office all the material we have collected in relation to this request for a reconsideration.

Are you happy with this approach?

Ngā mihi

John

*John McLeod, ONZM
Director
Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group
HQ NZ Defence Force
Mobile: s. 9(2)(k)*

www.nzdf.mil.nz



From: s. 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 9 September 2022 2:47 p.m.
To: McLeod, John <s.9(2)(k)>
Cc: Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE s.9(2)(k); Beck, Darren, LTCOL s.9(2)(k)
Ministerial Services <ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: PROCESS FOR REVIEW of Nomination for Bravery Award - Pte DEW Stewart -IN-CONFIDENCE

Team,

Post the meeting with Bernard Isherwood on the 31st, the Minister agreed to supporting the attached submission for the NZBM review for upgrade to NZC for Private David Stewart for forwarding to the Prime Minister.

Can you please investigate the process and provide advice to get this submission presented in the appropriate format to ensure the Minister is able to sign it and have it forwarded to the PM through the Cabinet Office.



I am happy to remain the point of contact for Bernhard should there be any ongoing engagement.

Ngā Mihi/ Thanks,

s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(a)

Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence | Office of Hon Peeni Henare

Minister of Defence | Minister for Whānau Ora

Associate Minister of Health | Associate Minister of Tourism | Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing) |

s. 9(2)(a) Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Bernard Isherwood s. 9(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, 7 September 2022 1:47 PM

To: s. 9(2)(a)

Subject: Nomination for Bravery Award - Pte DEW Stewart

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Please find attached the Nomination for the NZ Cross for Pte Stewart, together with five Annexes.

As directed, could you please pass to the Minister for his action.

Grateful if you confirm receipt.

Regards,

Bernard

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From: [Mcleod, John](#)

Sent: Fri, 16 Sep 2022 03:31:35 GMT

To: [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)

Subject: RE: Bravery Award Pte David Stewart Seemail In Confidence

Thanks David. I will check in with the Minister's office. s. 9(2)(g)(i)

I'll have another go at the wording to find a more nuanced way.

Ngā mihi

John

*John McLeod, ONZM**Director**Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group**HQ NZ Defence Force*

Mobile: s. 9(2)(k)

www.nzdf.mil.nz cid:image001.png@01D78DC4.1977FF80

From: David Williams [DPMC] [mailto:David.Williams@dpmc.govt.nz]**Sent:** Friday, 16 September 2022 3:04 p.m.**To:** McLeod, John s. 9(2)(k)**Subject:** Bravery Award Pte David Stewart Seemail In Confidence

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora john

I have an initial look at the draft, my comments (subject to review by Rachel/Pav) would be to note that:

- there needs to be advice included in the letter on NZDF's position on retrospective consideration of honours (in general and in this case).
- clarifying what were the informal enquires undertaken by the Minister?
- confirming with the Minister's office his position (supporting reconsideration).
- what are the implications of reconsideration? (as noted in final para of the draft)
- are there other options for recognition outside of the honours system?

I may have some further comment once I have been able to discuss this within the office, but this will not be available until after the Queen's memorial service at the very earliest.

Hei konā mai,
David



David Williams
Senior Advisor (Honours)
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s. 9(2)(a)

Email: david.williams@dpmc.govt.nz

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From: McLeod, John s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 3:22 pm
To: David Williams [DPMC] <David.Williams@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bravery Award Pte David Stewart Seemail In Confidence

*** [SEEMAIL] This message may contain classified information ***

Hi David,

Attached is a draft letter I have written for the Minister of the Defence to the Prime Minister supporting a review of the New Zealand Bravery Medal awarded to Private David Stewart. While this was not the advice to the Minister, he was very clear that he wished to forward and support the submission to the Prime Minister. This letter reflects the Minister's view. Prior to sending it to the Minister's office I just want to run it past you to make sure there is nothing in it that would be problematic.

I appreciate we all have a lot on but the Minister wants to progress this quickly – at least to the PM.
Many thanks

Ngā mihi

John

John McLeod, ONZM
Director
Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group
HQ NZ Defence Force
Mobile: s. 9(2)(k)

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From: [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)

Sent: Thu, 15 Sep 2022 05:02:21 GMT

To: [McLeod, John](#)Subject: RE: Bravery Award Pte David Stewart Seemail In Confidence
[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Thanks John, your right there is a lot on for both of us. I will provide comments on the draft tomorrow.

Kind regards
David



David Williams
Senior Advisor (Honours)
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington
6011, New Zealand

s. 9(2)(a)

Email:
david.williams@dpmc.govt.nz

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From: McLeod, John s. 9(2)(k)
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 3:22 pm
To: David Williams [DPMC] <David.Williams@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bravery Award Pte David Stewart Seemail In Confidence

*** [SEEMAIL] This message may contain classified information ***

Hi David,

Attached is a draft letter I have written for the Minister of the Defence to the Prime Minister supporting a review of the New Zealand Bravery Medal awarded to Private David Stewart. While this was not the

advice to the Minister, he was very clear that he wished to forward and support the submission to the Prime Minister. This letter reflects the Minister's view. Prior to sending it to the Minister's office I just want to run it past you to make sure there is nothing in it that would be problematic.

I appreciate we all have a lot on but the Minister wants to progress this quickly – at least to the PM.
Many thanks

Ngā mihi

John

John McLeod, ONZM

Director

Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group

HQ NZ Defence Force

Mobile: s. 9(2)(k)

www.nzdf.mil.nz



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From: [McLeod, John](#)

Sent: Thu, 29 Sep 2022 02:22:11 GMT

To: [s. 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Subject: To PM Re Stewart.docx seemail in confidence

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

 [To PM Re Stewart.docx \(15Kb\)](#)

Hi [s. 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

As requested of me I have drafted a letter for the Minister's consideration to cover the submission by Bernie Isherwood to upgrade the New Zealand Bravery Medal awarded to David Stewart. I understand you have a hard copy of the papers in support of the submission.

We will separately provide the Cabinet Office with copies of all the documents and reports we hold.

Ngā mihi

John

*John McLeod, ONZM**Director**Heritage, Commemorations, and Protocol Group**HQ NZ Defence Force**Mobile: [s. 9\(2\)\(k\)](#)*www.nzdf.mil.nz

 [ATT70006.jpg](#)

 [To PM Re Stewart.docx](#) [To PM Re Stewart.docx](#)

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From: **s. 9(2)(a)** Sent: Mon, 05 Dec 2022 18:59:54 GMT
 To: [Ministerial Services](#)
 CC: [Mcleod, John](#) ; [Williams, David](#) ; [Beck, Darren, LTCOL](#) ; **s. 9(2)(a)**
 Subject: IN-CONFIDENCE SIGNED COPY OF MT RUAPEHU BRAVERY AWARD
 UPGRADE SEEMAIL

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

 [PH 35926 Minister Letter to Rt Hon PM re Mt Ruapehu Bravery Award Review Pvt](#)

[Stewart 221205.pdf \(120Kb\)](#)  [Nomination for the New Zealand Cross for S53606Private](#)

[David Edward Whaw...docx \(24Kb\)](#)  **s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i)**

s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i) [Pte Stewart.docx \(14Kb\)](#)  **s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(ba)(i)** 

[Letter of Endorsement- Private David Stewart.docx \(70Kb\)](#)  [231763 Bravery Award](#)


[nomination form - Current version \(October 2021\).docx \(41Kb\)](#)  [11 11 22 Minister Henare re upgrading bravery award for Private David St...pdf \(659Kb\)](#)

Morena Team,

Please find attached the signed copy of the 'Consideration of Upgrade of Bravery Award – Private David Edward Whawai Stewart NZBM' with supporting documentation for your records. The letter will be forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office by close of play this week.

Ngā Mihi/ Thanks,

s. 9(2)(a)

 Red Coat of Arms

s. 9(2)(a)

Military Secretary to the Minister of Defence | Office of Hon Peeni Henare

Minister of Defence | Minister for Whānau Ora

Associate Minister of Health | Associate Minister of Tourism | Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing) |

s. 9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings,

Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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From: s. 9(2)(a)
 To: Talisa Kupenga; TAYLOR, Kevin
 CC: Berry, Greer; Mason, Alex; s. 9(2)(a)
 Subject: RE: TVNZ request unclassified
 Evening All.

Sent: Mon, 10 Apr 2023 07:20:01 GMT

Apologies, still in catch up mode post the DPM Australia being here.

This topic came up during my handover. In addition, I received an email from the key external POC earlier this week inquiring about progress.

In short, the last Minister of Defence endorsed the upgrade of the medal to NZ Cross. This has been forwarded to the Cabinet Office who are working on a response to the request. This has come to a halt as the key people are involved with the PM's trip to the Kings Coronation. Therefore, there will be no update/progress until they have returned.

Ngā mihi

s. 9(2)(a)

Private Secretary, NZDF

s. 9(2)(a)

Office of Hon Andrew Little MP

Minister of Defence

Minister for the Public Service

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Minister Responsible for the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service

Minister Responsible for the Government Communications Security Bureau

Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

Reception: +64 4 817 8707 | E: a.little@ministers.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Andrew Little MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Please note information about meetings related to the Ministers' portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 2020 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>

From: Talisa Kupenga <Talisa.Kupenga@parliament.govt.nz>
 Sent: Thursday, 6 April 2023 1:08 PM
 To: Taylor, Kevin; s. 9(2)(k); s. 9(2)(a)
 Cc: Berry, Greer <Greer.Berry@nzdf.mil.nz>; Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
 Subject: RE: TVNZ request unclassified

Gotcha – thanks Kevin

Won't need a korero today but will give you a bell when it suits

Ngā mihi,

Talisa Kupenga
Senior Press Secretary Hon Andrew Little MP
DDI: +64 4 817 6895 | M: +64 27 405 7231 | E: talisa.kupenga@parliament.govt.nz

Office of Hon Andrew Little MP
Minister of Defence
Minister for the Public Service
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service
Minister Responsible for the Government Communications Security Bureau
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

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From: Taylor, Kevin **s. 9(2)(k)**
Sent: Thursday, 6 April 2023 1:05 PM
To: Talisa Kupenga <Talisa.Kupenga@parliament.govt.nz>; **s. 9(2)(a)**
Cc: Berry, Greer <Greer.Berry@nzdf.mil.nz>; Mason, Alex <Alexandra.Mason@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: RE: TVNZ request unclassified

There is a long history of this matter, which I'm happy to perhaps come over and explain today if you want.

The short version is that NZDF's Heritage Commemorations and Protocol unit advise that PMO has referred this matter to the Cabinet Office for advice.

Head of HCP, John McLeods, further advises that PMO is "where the question should go". However, you do need some background on it (I think) before simply doing that, and as I say, I'm happy to go over it for you.

From: Talisa Kupenga [<mailto:Talisa.Kupenga@parliament.govt.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 6 April 2023 12:04 p.m.
To: **s. 9(2)(a)**
Cc: Taylor, Kevin **s. 9(2)(k)**; Berry, Greer <Greer.Berry@nzdf.mil.nz>
Subject: Fwd: TVNZ request

Hi guys,

Any info re; this would be greatly appreciated

Ngā mihi

Talisa Kupenga
Senior Press Secretary Hon Andrew Little MP
DDI: +64 4 817 6895 | M: +64 27 405 7231 | E: talisa.kupenga@parliament.govt.nz
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Phone: +64 6 474 0000 | F: +64 6 474 0000
Private Bag 10941, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6100, New Zealand

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SENT FROM A MOBILE DEVICE

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:47:19 AM
To: Talisa Kupenga <Talisa.Kupenga@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: TVNZ request

Kia ora Talisa,

I am wondering if there's an update from the Minister on getting the late Private David Stewart's medal upgraded to an NZ Cross?

It was a request made last year by retired army colonel Bernard Isherwood.

Stewart was the soldier who died saving fellow soldiers in the Ruapehu tragedy 32 years ago.

I think it was being considered before there was a cabinet shuffle after Jacinda Ardern stood down.

Thanks very much,



 tvnz-
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