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OIA-2024-5115

9 September 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 14 August 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the Col [Court of Inquiry] reports and comments of the Assembling Authority for the following:

- *Death of an air cadet*
- *Bullying, harassment and welfare issues in a unit;*
- *Data spillage during an operation;*
- *Injuries during training activity (10/10/23);*
- *Death of a sea cadet while attending an overseas event;*
- *Injuries sustained by an officer cadet;*
- *Fuel and maintenance issues in HMNZS Aotearoa;*
- *Gas incidents in HMNZS Te Mana;*
- *Injury during pistol annual weapon qualification.*

The following Courts of Inquiry remain active and/or are under consideration: *Bullying, harassment and welfare issues in a unit; Data spillage during an operation; Injuries during training activity (10/10/23); Injuries sustained by an officer cadet; Fuel and maintenance issues in HMNZS Aotearoa; Gas incidents in HMNZS Te Mana; and, Injury during pistol annual weapon qualification.* As a result, your request for the relevant reports and Assembling Authority comments is declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA as this information does not yet exist.

With respect to the report and Assembling Authority comments for the *Death of an air cadet* Court of Inquiry, these are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(c) of the OIA as this matter is currently under investigation.

For the Court of Inquiry report and Assembling Authority comments into the *death of a sea cadet while attending an overseas event*, an extension to the timeframe to make a decision is required as the consultations necessary cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit. A decision will be communicated by 23 October 2024.

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

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF