



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

OIA-2024-5196

29th January 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 5 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

All minutes, reports and briefings regarding the NZDF / RNZN's public relations and media strategy / approach to the sinking of the HMNZS Manawanui.

The minutes of all meetings involving NZDF public relations staff related to PR strategy and approach around the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui.

All communications between Commander Yvonne Gray and the Chief of Navy in October, 2024.

All communications between Commander Yvonne Gray and the Chief of the Defence Force in October, 2024.

All communications between the Chief of Navy and the Defence Minister in October, 2024.

All communications between the Chief of the Defence Force and the Defence Minister in October, 2024.

The minutes of all meetings involving the Chief of the Defence Force and the Defence Minister in October, 2024.

Where a part of your request is for communications, you subsequently refined it to be: *communications re HMZNS Manawanui, and the Court of Inquiry into the sinking.*

The New Zealand Defence Force did not develop a *media strategy / approach* in response to the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Accordingly there are no minutes from any meetings.

While the Court of Inquiry into the sinking is ongoing, communications about the sinking involving Commander Yvonne Gray, the Chief of Defence Force, the Chief of Navy and the Minister of Defence are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court. The NZDF intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

The last part of your request concerning minutes of meetings was transferred to the Office of the Minister of Defence in accordance with section 14 of the OIA.

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