



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

OIA-2025-5250

30th January 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 19 December 2024 concerning the grounding of the Interislander ferry Aratere on 21 June 2024. Your questions have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) with respect to information held by the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), and by extension the New Zealand Defence Force.

The Transport Accident Investigation Commission's interim factual report on the grounding of the Interislander ferry Aratere was considered by relevant parts of the RNZN. The final report will also be considered once it is released.

Such consideration of incidents at sea is routine in order to learn from mistakes and understand the factors that have led to such incidents. The interim findings had no indications of culpability, root causes, or lesson learned. They have therefore not been included in any formal RNZN training or analysis; however they have been, and will continue to be, used in part to form discussions about equipment and bridge resource management as part of the RNZN training curriculum.

It is noted that commercial ships are generally operated differently from military vessels, and while lessons and observations can be obtained from any incident, they do not always provide a direct comparison for RNZN training and education purposes.

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