



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5257

13 February 2025

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 16 January 2025 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information about the summary trial of Commander Bronwyn Heslop:

A copy of the charging document or notification made that refers to the allegation made, the charge alleged, the date of the alleged offending, the location of the offending and other matters generally included in such notifications;

If not included in this information, the section of the AFDA under which the Commander is charged; If not included in the above information, the date and location of the alleged offending;

The above information is withheld in accordance with section 6(c) of the OIA while the disciplinary proceedings are ongoing. Making this information available would likely prejudice the right to a fair trial.

The date on which the Military Police investigation began;

The Military Police investigation began on 5 June 2024.

The date on which the Command inquiry began;

The command investigation began on 17 September 2024.

A copy of the Command inquiry report and a list of those to whom it has been provided;

The report of the command investigation is withheld in accordance with section 6(c) for the same reason as stated above. The command investigation has been provided to: Commander Heslop and her legal representative; the Maritime Component Commander Commodore Shane Arndell and his Executive Officer; and the Deputy Director Defence Legal Services (Personnel Law).

The service, rank and trade of the person who undertook the Command inquiry;

The command investigation was carried out by a legal officer of the Royal New Zealand Navy, holding the rank of Commander.

The service, rank and trade of the person assigned to the Summary trial;

The Disciplinary Officer hearing the summary trial is a Commodore of the Royal New Zealand Navy, in the position of acting Deputy Chief of Navy.

The date, if any has been set, of the Summary trial.

No date for the summary trial has been set.

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