



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

OIA-2024-5224

13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 29 November 2024 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) on 4 December 2024 in accordance with the OIA and was duly acknowledged on 6 December 2024.

You have specifically asked for the following:

1. *Please provide a link to NZ Navy abandon ship protocol*
2. *Where on the ship was the Commander of the vessels in the 15 minutes prior to, and up to the ships initial grounding at approx 6:15pm*
3. *After the order was given to abandon ship at approx 6:48pm, what was the timeline for the crew to begin and complete the physical abandon ship*
4. *What time was the 1<sup>st</sup> crew member able to abandon ship*
5. *What time was the last crew member able to abandon ship*
6. *Was the Commander of the vessel the last crew member to abandon ship*
7. *What time did the Commander of the vessel physically abandon ship*
8. *Whose responsibility is it to secure the ships log before abandoning ship*
9. *At what time was the last entry made into the ships log*
10. *What was the information logged into the ships log at that time*
11. *Is the Commander of the vessel required to check that the ships log is secure before abandoning ship*
12. *At what stage did the Commander of the vessel realise that the ships log was lost / unaccounted for*
13. *At what stage were the Navy and/or investigators advised that the ships log was lost / unaccounted for*
14. *Was the Commander of the vessel questioned about the ships log prior to the UK Navy's recovery of the ships log on 17 October*
15. *If the Commander of the vessel was questioned about the ships log prior to it's recovery on 17<sup>th</sup> October, was the Commander able to explain why the ships log had been lost*
16. *Was the Minister advised that the ships log was lost prior to it's recovery by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October*
17. *Had the NZ Navy identified the need to search for the ships log prior to it's recovery by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October*

18. *Were the NZ Navy searching for the ships log prior to it being recovered by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October*
19. *Where on the ship was the ships log found by the UK Navy on 17<sup>th</sup> October*
20. *Why was the loss of the ships log only reported after it was recovered by the UK Navy and reported by them on 17<sup>th</sup> October*
21. *Please provide a link to the written interim report on the sinking of the Manawanui*

A link is not available to the *NZ Navy abandon ship protocol*. Details of Royal New Zealand Navy operational procedures are withheld in full in accordance with section 6(a) of the OIA.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website.<sup>1</sup>

The Court of Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui is ongoing. Information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA to protect the public interest in the effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry. The NZDF intends to make the report of the Court of Inquiry publicly available once complete.

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

**GA Motley**  
Brigadier  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/story-collections/hmnzs-manawanui-in-samoa>