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New Zealand Defence Force
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New Zealand

OIA-2025-5278

28th February 2025

Troy McClure
fyi-request-30135-60ce2032@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Troy McClure

I refer to your email of 19 February 2025 to the Ministry of Defence requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

access to all communications relating to the HMNZS Manawanui and Yvonne Gray for the year 2025. Specifically, I request any and all written, electronic, and other communications, including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, meeting notes, or any other relevant documents, between the following individuals:

Judith Collins, Minister of Defence

Rear Admiral Garin Golding, Chief of Navy Chris Luxon, Prime Minister The timeframe for these communications should cover all correspondence during the year 2025.

To clarify, I am seeking:

Any discussions regarding the operational status, maintenance, deployment, or any other operational matters concerning the HMNZS Manawanui.

Any communications related to Yvonne Gray in connection with the HMNZS Manawanui (e.g., roles, decisions, reports, or contributions).

Any planning, decision-making, or policy related to the vessel or individuals that involve the Ministry of Defence, the New Zealand Navy, or the Prime Minister's Office.

Any advice, reports, or recommendations from or to these individuals regarding the HMNZS Manawanui or Yvonne Gray.

Your request was transferred to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the OIA.

A large amount of information concerning the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui has been proactively released on the NZDF website¹.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. The requested information is therefore withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, in order to protect the public interest in the

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

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 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.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF