

5 November 2024

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Thank you for your email of 7 October 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Any briefings, submission, reports, or other documentation (including correspondence) regarding the grounding and then sinking of the Manawanui, between midday Saturday, October 5, 2024 and Monday, October 7, 2024.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) holds some information in scope of your request. However, 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 effective conduct of the Court of Inquiry.

In our view, it would have been necessary, under section 14 of the OIA, to transfer the remaining part of your request to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) because NZDF is the lead agency for this matter and other information in scope of your request is held by NZDF. However, we are aware that you have already made your request to NZDF, and therefore we have not transferred it.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade