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New Zealand Defence Force  
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New Zealand

OIA-2024-5155

7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

lati lati  
fyi-request-28702-4bc1a769@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear lati lati

I refer to your email of 7 October 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*all information about what the HMNZS Manawanui was doing in Samoa's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in September and October 2024. Please include all planning documents relating to the Manawanui's mission and activities, and any correspondence related to these between the Ministry of Defence and the following:*

- 1. New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.*
- 2. The National Assessments Bureau.*

You amended your request on 9 October to include:

- 2. The Government of Samoa.*
- 3. Any other New Zealand government ministries and departments.*

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

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking of HMNZS Manawanui. 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 New Zealand Defence Force 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

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