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New Zealand Defence Force  
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OIA-2024-4917

// March 2024

N. S. Hudson

[fyi-request-25727-12f75022@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25727-12f75022@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear N. S. Hudson

I refer to your email of 13 February 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all information regarding the February/March 1987 Hauraki Gulf exercises involving HMNZS Southland. Also regarding whether they had a breakdown that left them stranded, and sequence of events surrounding this breakdown.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) no longer holds operational information regarding HMNZS Southland. All surviving records are now held at Archives New Zealand, many are open access and some are restricted access. Your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(d) of the OIA.

One of the restricted files (*R15980773 - Plans, Operations and Readiness - Collisions and Grounding, Berthing Incidents and HMNZS Southland*) has been reviewed by the NZDF in response to a request for access via Archives New Zealand. No relevant information in relation to your request was identified.

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.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF