

OIA-2017-2724

25 May 2017

**Mr Liam Stoneley**

[fyi-request-5732-63442991@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5732-63442991@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Stoneley

I refer to your email of 14 April 2017 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. a) *How many ships does the NZDF own?*

The Royal New Zealand Navy operates eleven ships, from six different classes, that undertake a full range of maritime tasks from combat and peacekeeping operations to border patrol and support for other government agencies.

Each class of ship undertakes a different role and provides different capabilities to New Zealand, and operates alongside other government agencies including the New Zealand Police, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Conservation and Civil Defence.

The fleet is comprised of:

- Two Anzac-class frigates
- Two Otago-class offshore patrol vessels
- Four Lake-class inshore patrol vessels
- One Canterbury-class multi-role vessel
- One replenishment tanker
- One diving support vessel.

b) *And in what year [was] each purchased? And what is/was their purpose? c) And in what year does the Navy expect to replace any of them? If in the near future, with what vessel and for how much?*

A table showing the ships of the Royal New Zealand Navy and the date they were commissioned, the approximate year of replacement and the purpose of each class is on the following page. Notes that follow provide information on the major acquisition projects which led to their purchase.

Class	Ship Name	Commissioned into Service	Approx. replacement	Purpose
ANZAC Frigate	<i>Te Kaha</i>	22 Jul 1997	2035	The Naval Combat Force provides a combat capability and the ability to work with other nations to maintain regional security. The ships undertake maritime security patrols and surveillance operations to protect sea lanes and trade routes.
	<i>Te Mana</i>	10 Dec 1999	2035	
Offshore Patrol Vessel	<i>Otago</i>	18 Feb 2010	2040	Long range patrol around New Zealand, the Pacific and Southern Oceans, for the purpose of resource protection and compliance with international laws (such as fisheries).
	<i>Wellington</i>	6 May 2010	2040	
Inshore Patrol Vessel	<i>Rotoiti</i>	19 Apr 2009	2040	Border patrol, maritime surveillance and resource protection within New Zealand's EEZ.
	<i>Hawea</i>	1 May 2009	2040	
	<i>Pukaki</i>	14 May 2009	2040	
	<i>Taupo</i>	29 May 2009	2040	
Multi-role Vessel	<i>Canterbury</i>	12 Jun 2007	2040	Logistics and sealift capability, including amphibious logistics operations. In addition to military tasks, this is a key capability for New Zealand to respond to a wide range of emergency and disaster situations within New Zealand, the South Pacific and Asia regions.
Replenishment Tanker	<i>Endeavour</i>	8 Apr 1988	2021	Replenishment at sea and logistics support, enabling other vessels to operate at sea for longer periods.
Diving Support Vessel	<i>Manawatu</i>	15 Apr 1988	TBC, expected to be 2021-22	Support to diving and mine countermeasure operations, including limited littoral warfare support.

The NZDF will replace *HMNZS Endeavour* with a Maritime Sustainment Capability vessel, which will be commissioned in 2021 as *HMNZS Aotearoa*. Initial government approval for the project was received in 2012, after submission of the initial business case, and the

purchase was approved in July 2016 when the contract was awarded to Hyundai Heavy Industries for the building of the new ship.

Work is currently underway to identify the replacement vessel for *HMNZS Manawanui*. This will also replace the littoral capability that was provided by *HMNZS Resolution* before it was decommissioned in 2012. The project is known as the Littoral Operations Support Capability project and Government approval to proceed was given in 2015. The project is currently in its design phase.

Commencing in the mid 1980s, the purchase of the ANZAC class frigates was a joint project between New Zealand and Australia. The decision to build the ANZAC class frigates was announced in 1989. *Te Kaha* was the second of ten ships built, and *Te Mana* was the fourth. The remaining eight ships of the class are operated by the Royal Australian Navy.

The Multi-role Vessel, Offshore Patrol Vessels and Inshore Patrol Vessels were purchased as a combined project, known as Project Protector. That Project was developed following the 2001 Government Maritime Patrol Review, with a request for tender released in 2002 and award of the contract to build the ships in 2004.

*d) How many days has each of the aforementioned ships been out of port (broken down into each of the 5 years)?*

Ships deploy around New Zealand and internationally to meet the outputs required by the Government, and these are measured in days at sea for each class of ship:

Year	Frigate	Tanker	MRV	OPVs	IPVs	Dive Support
2017 (to date)	88	49	36	64	56	26
2016	200	98	109	280	188	111
2015	208	148	140	262	180	110
2014	107	10	110	267	134	111
2013	204	31	118	276	198	113
2012	182	169	115	152	304	113

*e) Any reasons why they have not been out of port for the period of times you provide?*

Ships can be alongside in port for a number of reasons, including:

- Conducting diplomatic, regional and national engagement (port visits away from Devonport Naval Base)
- Maintenance and refit
- Deployment preparations and resupply
- Training and capability generation
- Leave and respite for crews.

*f) Please provide the number of dedicated fishery patrol days at sea for each of the 5 years?*

Fisheries patrols are conducted in conjunction with the Ministry for Primary Industries and ,based upon seasonal demands and requirements, vary each year. In addition to dedicated patrols, any time an RNZN ship is transiting through the New Zealand EEZ it is conducting surveillance and monitoring operations.

Over the last five years, the following dedicated fishery patrol days have been completed:

Month	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Jan	0	0	0	29	22	26
Feb	19	0	5	19	41	12
Mar	16	17	16	19	10	11
Apr	4	6	0	8	22	0
May	-	0	12	10	13	14
Jun	-	13	0	11	62	9
Jul	-	0	0	3	69	8
Aug	-	12	6	6	27	34
Sep	-	21	14	26	15	16
Oct	-	7	0	24	10	14
Nov	-	4	15	0	47	38
Dec	-	18	21	27	37	34
Total	39 to date	98	89	182	345	216

You also asked the NZDF to:

2.a) Compare and contrast the size, capabilities, cost, man-power needed to operate this new ship [Aotearoa] with the Endeavour which it replaces.

*Aotearoa* will be able to carry more diesel fuel, aviation fuel, fresh water and containers than *Endeavour*, and will also be able to embark an NH90 helicopter and conduct helicopter operations. This provides a marked improvement in capability and ensures that *Aotearoa* has the ability to support a modern defence force and can make a significant contribution to international coalition operations with our allies.

A detailed breakdown of the capabilities of both ships is:

*Endeavour:*

Displacement: 12,589 tonnes  
Dimensions: 138.1 metres length, 18.4 metres beam, 7.3 metres draught  
Speed: 13.5 knots  
Complement: 42 core crew, 5 flight crew (now used for trainees as the ship no longer carries an embarked helicopter)  
Range: 8,000 nautical miles  
Cargo capacity: 7,500 tons diesel; 135 tons aviation fuel, 8 Containers  
Two replenishment-at-sea rigs for underway refuelling of other ships  
Medical capability: Nil  
Armament: Nil  
Price: NZ\$27 M (1988).

*Aotearoa:*

Displacement: 24,000 tonnes  
Dimensions: 173 metres length, 24.5 metres beam, design draught 8.5 metres  
Speed: 16 knots  
Complement: 64 core crew, 11 flight crew, 1 VIP, 8 Mission Team and 14 trainees  
Range: 8,500 nautical miles  
Cargo capacity: 8,000 tons diesel, 1,500 tons aviation fuel, 250 tons fresh water, 12 Containers  
Two replenishment-at-sea rigs for underway refuelling of other ships  
Medical capability: Two-berth ward and treatment ward  
Armament: Fitted for but not with two mini-Typhoons and a Phalanx close-in weapon system  
Ice strengthened  
Price: NZ\$493 M.

b) Any information on why there are differences between the two ships, specifically if there are on size, cost to purchase and why it needs to be replaced at all.

*Endeavour* has played a key supporting role in the delivery of the Defence Force's principal roles, articulated in the *Defence White Paper 2016*. *Endeavour's* role has been noteworthy considering New Zealand's unique geostrategic environment. No other country of comparable size and political and economic standing has the ability to be able to deploy equipment and personnel from the equator to the Antarctic. The naval tanker extends the endurance and range of the Defence Force's naval vessels, significantly increasing the utility of the Defence Force's naval combat capability.

*Aotearoa* will provide New Zealand with an independent and complementary maritime sustainment capability able to work with New Zealand's allies, but also ensuring we are not reliant on other countries to provide this support. In addition, it will improve our ability to respond to events in New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific, including disaster response and security threats. Furthermore, *Aotearoa* will be ice-strengthened to enable operations in the Southern Ocean and support to the Offshore Patrol Vessels when they conduct patrols in that area. This enhances New Zealand's ability to support the Antarctic programme.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely



**G.R. SMITH**

Commodore, RNZN  
Chief of Staff HQNZDF