

UNDER

THE INQUIRIES ACT 2013

IN THE MATTER

A GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO OPERATION  
BURNHAM AND RELATED MATTERS

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**Affidavit of Christopher John Augustine Hoey**

**23 August 2019**

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**New Zealand Defence Force**

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I, **Christopher John Augustine Hoey**, Wellington, Director of Coordination at the New Zealand Defence Force, solemnly and sincerely affirm:

1. In April 2012, I retired as a Captain in the Royal New Zealand Navy. In mid-April 2012 I became the Director of Coordination for the New Zealand Defence Force (**NZDF**). I am still in that role. My principal responsibility is to coordinate the flow of information from NZDF to the Office of the Minister of Defence (**Minister's Office**).

#### The IAT report

2. When I began in my current role, I inherited a safe that had previously been used by Mike Thompson, Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Chief of the Defence Force. The safe contained a number of documents.
3. I was at my desk on 30 June 2014 when someone - I do not recall who it was - advised me that the Minister of Defence, Jonathan Coleman, had asked NZDF to provide any information we had about an operation in Afghanistan in August 2010.
4. I opened my safe to retrieve all the notes to the Minister that were stored there. While the safe was open, I remembered that I had previously seen a small bundle of documents relating to Afghanistan, so I pulled that bundle out too. I quickly scanned the pages of the bundle to confirm that the documents related to an operation in Afghanistan in 2010.
5. I handed over to this person the notes to the Minister and the bundle of documents which were stapled together. The bundle is attached to this affidavit and marked as "Exhibit A".
6. Within that bundle was a copy of an International Security Assistance Force report titled Incident Assessment Team Executive Summary, 26 August 2010: CIVCAS Allegation during TF-81 Level II Deliberate Detention Op in Tigiran Village, Talawe Berfak District, Baghlan Province, RC North (**IAT report**).
7. The IAT report was highlighted, underlined, and marked, but I do not know by whom. I also do not know who put the IAT report into the safe as it was already there when I took over the safe in mid-April 2012.
8. When I handed over the documents, I had no concept of the importance of the IAT report. I had never read it in detail; I only knew that the stapled bundle of documents in the safe related to an operation in Afghanistan.
9. It was not until the morning of 22 March 2017, the day after the book *Hit and Run* was launched, that I read the IAT report in detail. I used the IAT report as the basis for drafting the talking points for the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Kevin Short, to use in his meeting with the Prime Minister at 12:30pm on 22 March 2017.

10. The talking points are attached to this affidavit and marked as "Exhibit B".

#### Transfer to the Minister's Office

11. I can see from the Classified Document Register (**Register**) which is stored securely within my safe, that on 30 June 2014, the same day as the Minister of Defence had asked NZDF to provide relevant information, the IAT report was provided to "M Chadwick". Commander Mark Chadwick was the Military Adviser to the Minister of Defence. A copy of that page of the Register is attached to this affidavit and marked as "Exhibit C".

12. I can also see from the following page in the Register that on 1 July 2014 the IAT report was provided by "MA" (which stands for Military Adviser) to "MNDEF" (the Minister of Defence). A copy of that page of the Register is attached to this affidavit and marked as "Exhibit D".

#### Attendance at the September hearing

13. I understand that the Inquiry will convene, in the week beginning 16 September 2019, a public hearing on the accuracy of public statements made by NZDF about the possibility of civilian casualties.

14. I will be undergoing surgery on 26 August 2019. The surgeon's view is that, once the procedure is performed, I will need about six weeks for recovery and convalescence. A copy of the surgeon's letter is attached to this affidavit and marked as "Exhibit E".

15. Unfortunately this means that I will not be available to give evidence at that hearing. I am, however, able to be contacted directly by the Inquiry after I have recovered from the surgery.

#### AFFIRMED

at Wellington this 23rd day  
of August 2019



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Signature of Christopher John Augustine Hoey

Before me: St John Christopher Howard-Brown  
Solicitor  
Wellington



A Barrister/Solicitor of the High Court of  
New Zealand

