

UNDER

THE INQUIRIES ACT 2013

IN THE MATTER

A GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO OPERATION
BURNHAM AND RELATED MATTERS

Brief of Evidence of Richard Rhys Jones

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1. I am Lieutenant General (Retired) Richard Rhys Jones. I am the Chief Executive Officer of Fire and Emergency New Zealand.
2. I enlisted in the New Zealand Army in 1978, and attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon, from 1979 until 1982. I was commissioned into the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps, and in 1997 became the Commanding Officer of New Zealand's Armoured Regiment, Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles.
3. I have held a range of senior command positions. From 2004 to 2005, I was the Brigade Commander of the 3rd Land Force Group. From 2007 to 2008, I was the Land Component Commander responsible for the training of all Army operational forces. From 2008 to 2009, I was the Commander of the Joint Forces Headquarters, responsible for all overseas operational deployments. I was Chief of Army from 2009 to 2011. In 2011 I was appointed Chief of Defence Force (CDF). I was CDF until my retirement from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in January 2014.
4. After leaving the NZDF I worked with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on the World War One Centennial. In July 2017 I was appointed the Chief Executive of Fire and Emergency New Zealand.
5. I have a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales, and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from Latrobe University, Melbourne (2001).
6. In 2011, I was awarded the rank of Commander of the Royal Military Order of Saint George, by the King of Tonga, for services to the Pacific. In 2014, I was awarded the Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. In 2016, I was awarded the Commander of the French Legion of Honour for services to the French-New Zealand relationship.


IAT report

7. In the course of preparing for this hearing, I was shown a copy of a report prepared by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Incident Assessment Team, which had been tasked to investigate allegations of civilian casualties arising out of an operation conducted in Baghlan province on 22 August 2010 (IAT report).
8. I understand that the IAT report was placed into the safe of my Deputy Chief of Staff, Mike Thompson, on 7 September 2011. I was CDF at the time.

9. It has a number of marks and annotations. I do not recognise them. Prior to being shown the IAT report ahead of this heading, I had never seen it before. I do not know how it came to be placed in Mike Thompson's safe.

20 April 2011

10. On 20 April 2011, I was in Gallipoli, Turkey, when One News broadcast a report about the New Zealand Special Air Service being involved in an operation in Afghanistan. I do not recall having been involved in any way in the response provided by the NZDF.
11. By the time I returned to New Zealand the story was no longer in the news so I do not recall having any other involvement.



Richard Rhys Jones

13/9/19

Date

