



CABINET OFFICE

13 February 2024

[Redacted]
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Ref: OIA-2023/24-0441

Tēnā koe [Redacted]

Official Information Act request: Queen Victoria's Royal Charter

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 19 January 2024. You requested:

“Was Queen Victoria’s Royal Charter establishing New Zealand as a separate colony included in the cabinet manual or identified as an important document by DPMC, and if so when was it removed? If it is still identified as a founding document of New Zealand, please state where this can be found in DPMC documents.”

Response to your query

The Cabinet Manual was first published in 1979 and has been subsequently updated from time to time. The most recent version was released in 2023. There is no mention of the specified Royal Charter in the 1979 Cabinet Manual or any of its subsequent versions. As such, I am refusing the first part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds the information does not exist.

In relation to the second part of your request (relating to the identification of the specified Royal Charter as an important or founding document), I am also refusing this request under section 18(g) of the Act, on the basis that DPMC does not hold any official information relevant to your request.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted signature block]

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

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