



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

8 April 2024

[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0506

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to information about King Charles III Coronation Medal

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 7 February 2024. You requested:

"I am writing to submit an Official Information Act request seeking access to any and all correspondence related to the decision-making process regarding the issuance or non-issuance of the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Specifically, I am requesting access to all emails, letters, memoranda, meeting minutes, reports, or any other forms of correspondence exchanged between officials, departments, or any involved parties concerning the decision-making process regarding the creation, approval, or rejection of the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Please include any discussions, deliberations, considerations, recommendations, objections, or endorsements related to the establishment of this medal, as well as any factors, criteria, or policies that were taken into account during the decision-making process."

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 28 working days because it necessitated a search through a large quantity of information before a decision could be made on the request. Thank you for your patience as we processed your request. We are now in a position to respond.

Information being released

We have interpreted your request as relating to the decision-making process regarding the issuance or non-issuance of a New Zealand medal recognising The King's coronation.

We have decided to release the relevant parts of the **attached** document. Some information has been withheld under the following section for the Act:

- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

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The United Kingdom (UK) also issued a King Charles III Coronation Medal. Decisions in relation to the creation of this medal were taken by the United Kingdom. Eligibility criteria is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64cb653b2322ce000dcd23b7/Coronation_Medal_eligibility_criteria.docx.

Some New Zealanders were granted approval to accept and wear the UK medal as a foreign honour. The process of approving foreign honours is set out in the *Rules relating to the acceptance and wearing of Commonwealth, foreign and international Honours by New Zealand citizens* available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) website here:

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-system/rules-relating-to-acceptance-and-wearing>.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

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 DPMC'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.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Hayward
Clerk of the Executive Council



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Memo

16 December 2022

To Prime Minister

From Rachel Hayward

Subject Acknowledging the coronation of King Charles III

Summary This note seeks your initial decisions on projects to acknowledge the coronation of King Charles III.

Purpose

- 1 This note updates you on preliminary planning for the coronation of King Charles III, which is scheduled to take place on 6 May 2023. Your decision is sought on a preferred option or options for the government's acknowledgement of the coronation. The Cabinet Office will proceed with planning and agency/stakeholder engagement once you have indicated your preferred option(s).

Background

- 2 In the United Kingdom/New Zealand context, a coronation is a religious ceremony rather than constitutional event. King Charles became Sovereign by law; the coronation formally recognises this fact. Buckingham Palace has confirmed that the coronation of King Charles will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey.
- 3 New Zealand last celebrated a coronation 70 years ago, when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned at Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953. New Zealand marked the occasion with church services, civic parades around the country, an event on the steps of Parliament House and a gun salute from Point Jerningham. Portraits of the Queen were given to secondary schools, and every primary school student received a souvenir booklet.

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Coronation medal

25 I have been advised that the UK government intends to issue a medal to mark the coronation, which will likely be given to the same groups who received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (serving members of the UK armed forces, representatives of the public and emergency services, members of the Royal Household and recipients of the highest gallantry and bravery medals). A small number of New Zealanders may be eligible for the UK coronation medal, which would be considered as a foreign honour. This would be in line with decisions around previous jubilee medals.

26 In recent times, New Zealand has not issued medals to mark previous Royal occasions, principally for reasons of cost and difficulty in administering. s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] However, we can provide further advice to you about a medal if you wish.

Recommendations

40 I recommend that you:

Out of scope

40.3 **indicate** which (if any) of these options you would like to be explored as government-led events or initiatives to celebrate the coronation:

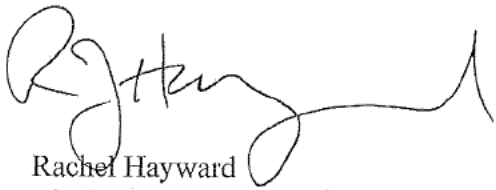
Out of scope

40.3.9 a coronation medal;

YES / NO / DISCUSS

Out of scope

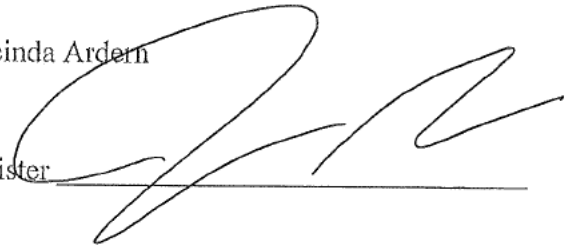
Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Rachel Hayward
Clerk of the Executive Council

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister



Date: 18 / 14 22

Distribution:

Raj Nahna, Chief of Staff

Holly Donald, Deputy Chief of Staff

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Memo

21 February 2023

To Prime Minister

From Rachel Hayward

Subject Acknowledging the coronation of King Charles III in New Zealand

Summary This note seeks confirmation of the government's initiatives to acknowledge the coronation of King Charles III.

Purpose

- 1 This note seeks your decisions on preferred options for the government's acknowledgement of the coronation of King Charles III in New Zealand, which is scheduled to take place on 6 May 2023. I am also seeking confirmation of certain decisions made by the former Prime Minister on this matter.

Background

- 2 In the United Kingdom/New Zealand context, a coronation is a religious ceremony rather than a constitutional event. King Charles became Sovereign by law; the coronation formally recognises this fact. Buckingham Palace has confirmed that the coronation of King Charles will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey.
- 3 New Zealand last celebrated a coronation 70 years ago, when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned at Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953. New Zealand marked the occasion with church services, civic parades around the country, an event on the steps of Parliament House and a gun salute from Point Jerningham. Portraits of the Queen were given to secondary schools, and every primary school student received a souvenir booklet.
- 4 In December 2022, I sought Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern's initial decisions on possible options for the government's acknowledgement of the coronation. This note seeks your confirmation, or variation, of some of those decisions.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Discarded options

31 The former Prime Minister did not wish to proceed with the options below. This note seeks your decision on these options, in case you wish for any to be reconsidered.

Coronation medal

- 31.5 I have been advised that the UK government intends to issue a coronation medal. A small number of New Zealanders may be eligible for the UK coronation medal, which would be considered as a foreign honour. This would be in line with decisions around previous jubilee medals. In recent times, New Zealand has not issued medals to mark previous Royal occasions, principally for reasons of cost and difficulty in administering. However, we can provide further advice to you about a medal if you wish.

Out of scope

Recommendations

47 I recommend that you:

Out of scope

47.3 **confirm** or **revisit** the decisions of the former Prime Minister to discard the following options:

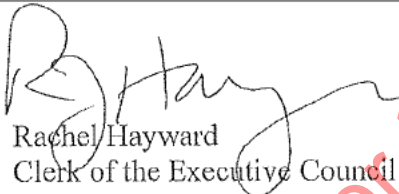
Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

47.3.5 a coronation medal;

DISCARD / REVISIT

Out of scope


 Rachel Hayward
 Clerk of the Executive Council

Rt Hon Chris Hipkins

Prime Minister



Date: 21/2/23.

Distribution:

Andrew Kirton, Chief of Staff
Holly Donald, Deputy Chief of Staff

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