



31 July 2026

Tēnā koe

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – 1866 Colonial museum break-in

Thank you for your OIA request dated Wednesday 8 July for the following information:

any records regarding a Mr James Young and/or a robbery that Mr Young was convicted of that occurred 1 February 1866 from Te Papa's predecessor, the Colonial Museum.

Please find attached images of two records that Te Papa holds:

- 1) Letter dated 2 February 1866: Reporting that museum was robbed.
- 2) Letter dated 15 March 1866: Colonial Secretary estimating the value [?] of the property stolen from the museum.

As noted in our email to you on 17 July 2026, Archives New Zealand is likely to hold substantially more information regarding the 1 February 1866 robbery of the Colonial Museum.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact OIA@tepapa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Peter Corley
Chief Finance and Strategy Officer