

MUSEUM OF NEW
ZEALAND
TE PAPA
TONGAREWA

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2 June 2021

Tēnā koe,

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – Banks Peninsular Turtle

I am writing in response to your email dated 9 May 2021 and in which you requested the following information:

I refer to recent media coverage on a trip by a contingent of Te Papa directors and staff members to the burial of a turtle in the South Island. Under the Official Information Act 1982 I request a copy of all information held by Te Papa on the decision and decision-making process as to how many people and who would attend the burial.

As context, I would like to find out who was involved in providing input into and making the decision, including the role of the board in said decision. For privacy reasons you can withhold names if you wish, but please identify people as, for example, board member A, staff member X etc. In your reply, please indicate whether the staff members attending were junior staff members or senior, eg tier 1, tier 2 managers etc.

The "information" that I request includes but is not limited to notes, meeting notes, screenshots, e-mails, letters, documents, board papers, board meeting minutes etc. Interpret "information" in a wide sense.

The decision to return the honu was an executive decision between Arapata Hakiwai (Kaihautu), Carolyn Roberts-Thompson (Director Nga Manu Atarau) and Dean Peterson (Director Collections & Research). The Board was advised of the decision to return the honu. Given the mana of the occasion, management decided it was appropriate that our Christchurch-based Board member was invited to be part of the roopu representing Te Papa at the return. The majority of the discussions were verbal other than the correspondence **attached**.

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 with us please contact either Frances Lawrence or Zoë Genet, at OIA@tepapa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Frances Lawrence
Senior Advisor Planning and Performance

Zoë Genet
Principal Legal Counsel