

**MUSEUM OF NEW  
ZEALAND  
TE PAPA  
TONGAREWA**

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4 November 2021

Tēnā koe,

**Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – outstanding taonga tūturu repatriation claims**

I am writing in response to the email dated 19 October 2021, sent to Te Papa by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage in which you requested the following information:

*Any records on outstanding taonga tūturu repatriation claims, both domestically and/or internationally. Specifically repatriation of taonga tūturu held in private and public collections (e.g. museums) to iwi-Māori entities.*

Currently there is no central agency that considers repatriation requests for taonga tūturu on behalf of all public and/or private collections. These types of requests are generally submitted to individual museums/galleries depending on the specific taonga covered by the request. Any museum or organisation responsible for preserving and caring for collections could receive a request as taonga Māori are located within most museums and galleries across the motu and there are private collectors who have a vast majority of iwi/Māori taonga in their collections. Accordingly we are only able to comment in relation to Te Papa.

Te Papa has and continues to receive repatriation requests for taonga Māori, usually with clear provenance and iwi associations. These requests are directed to the Kaihautū for consideration. The request is then assessed by the Head of Mātauranga Māori and curatorial team. A proposal to repatriate the taonga concerned would be written and recommendations provided to the Kaihautū and CE. If the value of the taonga in question is above the CE's delegated authority, the proposal would require Board approval. Currently, there are no outstanding formal requests although Te Papa has a role to support iwi and hapū with Treaty settlement claims and this can include care and/or repatriation of taonga held within the collection. These conversations can be ongoing depending on the settlement process and timeframes negotiated with the relevant iwi/hapū.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us please contact Frances Lawrence at [OIA@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@tepapa.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Frances Lawrence  
**Principal Advisor Strategy, Planning and Performance**