



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Māori Affairs

7 May 2019

John Luke
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Dear John Luke

I refer to your email of 11 April 2019 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I understand from the link: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/europe/united-kingdom/new-zealand-high-commission/living-in-the-uk/royal-events/> that each year the New Zealand High Commission is allocated a limited number of invitations or tickets for New Zealand citizens to attend Royal Events in the United Kingdom.

May I ask when the electronic ballot open last year and how many been selected? Also when the electronic ballot going to open this year"

In 2018 the public ballot opened on 31 January and applications closed on 7 February. Successful applicants were notified by 23 February 2018.

Applications opened this year on 31 January 2019. They closed on 7 February and successful applicants were notified by 15 February 2019.

As we work to requirements and timelines which are set by Buckingham Palace, we cannot give a specific date for when the ballot will open next year. However in line with recent practice we anticipate applications will open towards the end of January next year. We post information about the Royal Garden Parties on our website (as linked in your above OIA request), when we receive official notification from Buckingham Palace detailing the arrangements.

The Ministry is withholding the number of invitations to Royal events allocated to the New Zealand High Commission in London in full under the following section of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details redacted) may be published on the Ministry's website.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to a small dash at the end.

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade