



28 September 2013

PASSPORTS  
Uruwhenua

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Jon Le Mercier  
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Dear Jon Le Mercier

Thank you for your email of 31 October 2013 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1992, information in relation to Regulations, guidelines, policies used to determine what personal titles, honorific's, ranks or designations are or are not deemed acceptable / appropriate for inclusion in New Zealand Travel documents.

Passport Operation Policy specifies the following:-

**Passports can be issued displaying the following acceptable titles;**

Honourable (Hon)  
Right Honourable (Rt Hon)  
Titles bestowed by the Monarch e.g. Sir or Dame.

**Passports may not be issued displaying the following unacceptable titles;**

Service and military ranks  
Awards, Designations, Professional and Vocational titles, e.g. Dr, Rev or Nurse  
Pacific Island customary titles

**Foreign titles**

Foreign titles are not recognised for passport purposes in New Zealand.

A person's entitlement to have a passport issued including an honourable title may be checked with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I hope this information successfully answers your question on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Geoff May  
General Manager, Passports Uruwhenua  
Passports Uruwhenua  
Service Delivery and Operations Branch  
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua

