



Dennis-John Blair
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Our ref: OIA 90619

Dear Mr Blair

Official Information Act 1982 request: Clarification of governance arrangements in New Zealand

Thank you for your email of 10 September 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), clarification on several questions regarding governance arrangements in New Zealand.

The following parts of your request have been partially transferred to the New Zealand Police and to the Ministry of Health for response as these queries fall within the bounds of information held by those agencies.

- *Do the NZ Police take an oath of service to Queen Elizabeth II?*
- *Who is the authority that issued the orders within the Covid-19 Public Health Response Act 2020?*

The requests for information that is held by the Ministry of Justice and my responses to them are as below.

- *Do both The NZ Government and NZ Police operate by consent?*

The Government and its institutions operate in accordance with Aotearoa New Zealand's constitutional arrangements. These arrangements are found in a range of statutes, documents, practices, conventions and institutions. They describe and create the institutions of the State, set out the constraints on the exercise of State power, and regulate the relationship between citizens and the State. Constitutional arrangements fundamentally aim to ensure that State actions (including legislating, governing, and enforcing and upholding the law) are legitimate and are accepted as such by the public. You can read more about New Zealand's constitution here: www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/regulatory-stewardship/regulatory-systems/constitutional/.

- *Did Queen Elizabeth II in her coronation oath, swear to govern the people of New Zealand according to law & custom and uphold the Law of God?*

The Queen's Coronation Oath of 1953 in which New Zealand is sworn by Her Majesty to be governed can be found here: www.royal.uk/coronation-oath-2-june-1953.



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If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

Kathy Brightwell
General Manager Civil and Constitutional Policy