



2 JUL 2014

File Ref: 27207

David Nicholas  
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Tēnā koe David

### **Official Information Act Request**

Thank you for your email dated 27 May 2014 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982. You have asked about the opinions of Te Puni Kōkiri (the Ministry of Māori Development) with regard to the viewpoint that Māori were not the first to settle in New Zealand, and the impact this might have on the Treaty of Waitangi.

Your request is refused under Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information requested does not exist.

It may help to clarify our response by noting that Te Puni Kōkiri was established by the Ministry of Māori Development Act 1991 with a mandate to promote and increase levels of achievement by Māori, with a particular focus on education, employment and training, health and economic resource development. We are also responsible for monitoring and liaising with other government agencies that provide services to Māori. We do not undertake research or provide policy advice about matters related to the pre-history of New Zealand, except for work related to the protection of historic Māori sites and artefacts. On this basis, we do not have a policy position or opinion about the question of whether Māori were the first to settle New Zealand.

With regard to your second question about the Treaty of Waitangi, I note that the Treaty of Waitangi was entered into by the Crown and the Māori people of New Zealand, as acknowledged by the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975. The Crown has acknowledged that the Treaty of Waitangi is a founding document of New Zealand, and an important part of our national story. The rights and responsibilities of the Crown and Māori derived from the Treaty of Waitangi are unaffected by any relationship that the Crown may have with any other group of New Zealanders.



I trust you find this information helpful. However if you are not satisfied with this response you have the right, pursuant to Section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to make a complaint to an Ombudsman.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michelle', with a horizontal line above the 'i'.

Michelle Hippolite  
Chief Executive