



Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

**State emblems**

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

Out of scope

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**The Queen’s Personal Flag for New Zealand**

The Queen’s personal flag for New Zealand will cease to be used. The new King may wish to adopt a personal flag for New Zealand in due course.

**The Seal of New Zealand**

The current Seal of New Zealand is established under the Seal of New Zealand Proclamation 1977, in accordance with the Seal of New Zealand Act 1977.

The Seal is personal to the Sovereign. Accordingly, a new seal is struck on the accession of each new Sovereign. The Seal of New Zealand Act provides that the seal “in being at the time of the death of the Sovereign shall continue and be made use of until provision for a new Seal of New Zealand is made by Proclamation” [section 3(3)].

The current Seal of New Zealand, bearing the words “ELIZABETH THE SECOND . QUEEN . NEW ZEALAND .” will in due course be replaced. The design and manufacture of the new seal may take some time. Until the new seal is established by proclamation, the existing seal will continue to be used.

Out of scope

[Redacted text block]

Out of scope [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- In due course, NZ will address issues around Honours, special stamp issues, any amendments to currency design, replacing the Seal of New Zealand, considering enduring memorials to Her Majesty, etc. We have prepared answers to questions we might get about these things in the period after the death of the Queen.

- Out of scope [Redacted]

[Redacted]



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**Intended for** All Ministers  
All Chief Executives  
Chief Parliamentary Counsel  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Chief Executive, Parliamentary Service

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## Death of The Queen: Information

### Introduction

- 1 This circular sets out advice on the death of Her Majesty The Queen, the New Zealand response, and the effect of The Queen's death on New Zealand's constitutional situation, including implications for Cabinet processes and other matters related to government administration.

### Death of The Queen

- 2 Today the Palace advised the government of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of New Zealand. On the afternoon of Thursday 8 September, Her Majesty died peacefully at Balmoral Castle.

### Constitutional situation

- 3 On the demise of the Crown, the person who is first in line to the Throne immediately and automatically becomes Sovereign in accordance with the laws of succession. This means that Prince Charles became King of New Zealand immediately on the death of the Queen.
- 4 There is no change to New Zealand's constitutional situation. The Constitution Act 1986 provides that on the death of the Sovereign, all the functions and powers of the Crown transfer to the Sovereign's successor. The demise of the Crown has no other effects in New Zealand law, and every reference to the Sovereign in any document or instrument in force is read to include a reference to the Sovereign's heirs and successors (unless the context otherwise requires)<sup>1</sup>. Actions already taken by or in name of Her Majesty remain valid. New actions to be taken by or in the name of the Sovereign will need to refer to the new King.

### Governor-General appointments

- 5 Current appointments made by the Governor-General in the name of Queen Elizabeth II remain valid, regardless of the demise of the Crown.

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution Act 1986, section 5.

## The Executive Council and Cabinet

- 6 The demise of the Crown has no impact on the membership or procedures of the Executive Council or of the Cabinet.
- 7 Ministers (including the Prime Minister) are appointed to the Executive Council and to their portfolios by warrants in the name of Queen Elizabeth II. Those warrants remain valid after her death. All appointments to the Executive Council and to portfolios continue unchanged by the demise of the Crown.

## Parliament

- 8 Parliament comprises the Sovereign in right of New Zealand and the House of Representatives. The Constitution Act provides that “Every reference to the Sovereign in any document or instrument in force or after the commencement of this Act shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be deemed to include a reference to the Sovereign’s heirs and successors.”<sup>2</sup> The death of the Sovereign therefore does not dissolve Parliament. The new Sovereign immediately and seamlessly takes the place of the previous Sovereign in the New Zealand Parliament.
- 9 The House is due to meet on Tuesday, 13 September, and will receive a message from the Governor-General on the death of the Queen. Party leaders will have the opportunity to make statements in reply, after which the House will adjourn.

## Oaths and affirmations of allegiance

- 10 The death of the Sovereign automatically transfers all obligations of allegiance to the Sovereign’s successor, and no special action is required by members of Parliament to effect this (they are not required to re-take their oath or affirmation).
- 11 Similarly, other individuals required to take the oath of affirmation or allegiance or the citizenship oath (including Judges, Ministers, new citizens, Police constables and members of the Armed Forces) are not required to retake the oath or affirmation of allegiance, or the citizenship oath or affirmation, as a consequence of the demise of the Crown. Office holders continue to hold office, and new citizens retain their citizenship.
- 12 All relevant oaths and affirmations taken after the death of The Queen should refer to “His Majesty King Charles III, His heirs and successors”.

## State emblems

- 13 The demise of the Crown has no impact on the New Zealand Coat of Arms, the New Zealand Flag, or the Seal of New Zealand (the latter of which will be replaced in due course and established by Proclamation). The Queen’s personal flag for New Zealand will cease to be used. New Zealand currency, stamps and New Zealand Royal Honours will remain unchanged for the time being.

## New Zealand response

- 14 Flags are to be flown at half mast on all Government buildings from the announcement of the death of The Queen until the day after the New Zealand State Memorial Service (date to be advised in the next few days), except on the day of the Proclamation of the new Sovereign on 11 September 2022 (see also paragraph 17 below) [*New Zealand Flag Notice 1986, cl 4.*].

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<sup>2</sup> Constitution Act 1986, section 5.

- 15 There will be a gun salute to mark Her Majesty's death at dusk Friday 9 September, and a further salute will accompany the proclamation of the new King.
- 16 A Proclamation of the accession of the new Sovereign will be made on the steps of Parliament at 12.30pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The proclamation will confirm the King's full royal styles and titles, to be used on official documentation. The day of the Proclamation of Accession will be marked by the raising of all flags to the top of the mast for the day. Flags will return to half-mast the following day.
- 17 Condolence books for The Queen have been opened at Parliament, the National Library in Wellington and Wellington Cathedral of St Paul and will be available for signing each day during the period of mourning. Local authorities will issue advice on condolence books in other centres.
- 18 Condolence messages may be sent to [condolences@dia.govt.nz](mailto:condolences@dia.govt.nz) or made online at the Royal Family's website: [www.royal.uk](http://www.royal.uk).
- 19 The funeral will be held in London at a date to be confirmed. New Zealand will be represented at the funeral. Details of representation will follow.
- 20 A separate State Memorial will be held at Wellington St Paul's Cathedral. The date and time of this Memorial is still to be confirmed. This event will be live-streamed. Further details about the service will be available on the Governor-General's website as arrangements are finalised.

### Information updates

- 21 The Governor-General's website ([www.gg.govt.nz](http://www.gg.govt.nz)) will host information regarding New Zealand's constitutional situation, the New Zealand response to the death of the Queen, answers to frequently asked questions, and other matters with respect to national mourning. The website will be updated regularly, as new information becomes available.

### Further queries

- 22 If you have further queries, please contact the Acting Secretary of the Cabinet or the Acting Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet (Constitutional and Honours).

Rachel Hayward  
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

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#### Enquiries:

Ph: Rachel Hayward, Acting Secretary of the Cabinet  
021 708 501

Pavan Sharma, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet  
021 240 2771

**From:** [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#); [Fleur Gaston \[DPMC\]](#); [Anna Fleming \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** Notes from PPOS on demise of the Crown and succession\_ draft 26 January 2017.nrl  
**Date:** Tuesday, 31 January 2017 2:19:01 pm  
**Attachments:** [Notes from PPOS on demise of the Crown and succession\\_ draft 26 January 2017.nrl](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi All

While helping Phillip move office today he provided me with this draft note on the demise of the Crown and succession. It covers what needs to be done following the death of the Queen, including:

- styles and titles
- Seal of NZ
- flags (Queen's/King's GG's) and (flying of)
- Royal Crown
- observance of the Queen's Birthday holiday
- NZ honours , including QSO, NZ service medals
- gun salutes
- bank notes
- Royal portraits
- changing QCs to KCs
- various NZDF stuff – colours, Colonels-in-Chief, honorary military appointments

And a section on the death of the DoE.

He intends to discuss these with Rachel in the near future.

enjoy

David



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
**Cabinet Office**  
**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**



DDI: (s9(2)(a))

## IN CONFIDENCE

### DEMISE OF THE CROWN AND SUCCESSION

#### **Introduction**

These notes relate to the death of Queen Elizabeth II (hereinafter The Queen) and accession of a new Sovereign, The King.

Out of scope

#### ***Seal of New Zealand***

The Royal style and titles on the Seal of New Zealand require to be changed. Until such time as a new Seal is sanctioned, by Proclamation, the existing Seal, with style of The Queen, remains in use. The Seal for King George VI was sanctioned in 1939 but remained in use until 1959 when the current Seal was approved.

#### ***The Queen's Personal Flag for New Zealand***

This Flag was approved in 1962 and is the design of the Shield of the New Zealand Coat of Arms bled out into an oblong with in the centre the emblem found on The Queen's Personal Flag (see below), used by Her Majesty as Head of the Commonwealth in place of the Royal Standard. The emblem is the letter 'E' surmounted by a stylised Royal Crown on a blue field (background) all within a chaplet (garland) of roses, all gold (yellow).

s9(2)(g)(i)

Out of scope

#### ***The King's Personal Flag***

In 1960 The Queen approved a 'Personal Flag', i.e. a square blue flag with in the centre the letter E surmounted by a Royal Crown within a chaplet (garland) of roses all in gold (yellow). This flag was designed to be flown in those Commonwealth Countries which do not recognise The Queen as Head of State. A change of Sovereign will require a new design for this emblem and Flag.

This Flag is not flown in New Zealand but the emblem from it has been used in other contexts such as on coins, and an altar frontal.



**From:** [Kathleen Lambert \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Griffen Ritchie \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** Template for capital expenditure bid  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 May 2023 12:51:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[4740578\\_Capital Initiative Request template.DOCX](#)

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[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Griffen –

Out of scope

I think it would be sensible to include the new Seal of NZ and the King's die and design (and there's also something re Queen's die??), in one request, listed as individual items.

I don't think there would be any ongoing operating costs? ie this is a once-only purchase.

Out of scope

Out of scope

Tks

K



**Kathleen Lambert**  
**Business Support Manager**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

**DDI:** +s9(2)(a) **Mobile:** s9(2)(a)  
**Email:** [x@x](#)

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**From:** [Preity Chand \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#); [Griffen Ritchie \[DPMC\]](#); [Emily Faith \[DPMC\]](#); [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** June honours meeting debrief  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 12:18:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Good afternoon all

Out of scope [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- Seal of New Zealand [Redacted] needs to be changed
- Out of scope [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- **Preity** to create a schedule of steps for the updating of the Seal of New Zealand according to the Seal of New Zealand Act.

Out of scope [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scope

Hei konā mai,  
Nāku, nā Preity/ Priteshna



**Priteshna Chand**  
**Advisor - Constitution and Honours**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

DDI: s9(2)(a)  
Email: [preity.chand@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:preity.chand@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** [Preity Chand \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#); [Griffen Ritchie \[DPMC\]](#); [Emily Faith \[DPMC\]](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** July Honours Meeting 6 July  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 June 2023 8:59:00 am  
**Attachments:** [June honours meeting debrief.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora koutou

Out of scope

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted] update on Seal of New Zealand
- Out of scope
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Hei konā mai,  
Nāku, nā Preity/ Priteshna



**Priteshna Chand**  
**Advisor – Constitution and Honours**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

**DDI:** [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Email:** [.@..](#)

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**From:** [Louise Beard \[DPMC\]](#) on behalf of [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Preity Chand \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Demise - notes on legal workstreams  
**Date:** Monday, 10 July 2023 11:24:28 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[295791\\_5338603\\_Advice to DPMC re Proclamation of Accession \(final CLO opinion April 2020\).PDF](#)

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**Louise Beard**  
Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council

**DDI:** s9(2)(a)  
**Mobile:** s9(2)(a)  
[louise.beard@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:louise.beard@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Rose Goss [DPMC] <Rose.Goss@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 22 November 2022 8:21 am  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>; Matthew Tonks [DPMC] <Matthew.Tonks@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Pavan Sharma [DPMC] <Pavan.Sharma@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Demise - notes on legal workstreams

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora kōrua,

I've compiled my thoughts on the various "demise" workstreams assigned to me, see below.

Out of scope  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Out of scope  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Out of scope

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- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- To consider how we can make the future legislation future proof (e.g. something more like the Seal of NZ Act, which allows the Seal to be changed without the legislation needing to change). Perhaps something to discuss with PCO.

## 2. Does the Seal of New Zealand Act need to be updated?

It doesn't look like this strictly *needs* to be updated, but there are some minor changes that could be made as part of the general legislative update:

- Section 3(3) provides that when the Sovereign dies, the Seal being used at the time of their death continues and will be used until provision for a new Seal is made by Proclamation. So there is no issue with the ongoing use of the current Seal.
- The Act is relatively future proof – includes references to the Seal being used by “Our Successors”.
- But, there are a few references to “Her Majesty’s Government” which could be updated as part of the wider package of updates.
- The Act applies to the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau so we should consult in relation to any changes to the legislation and/or the Seal.

Some more practical questions to consider:

- What is the process for arranging a Proclamation of a new Seal? Who organises that/is there appetite for a new Seal? Relatedly, the running list of tasks indicates that it would be helpful to produce an easier to maintain sealing mechanism.

Out of scope

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]