



22 February 2023

Attention: John Luke

By email: <fyi-request-25495-b4a94ea3@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Dear Sir

Official information request for template appointment letters for King's Counsel

Our Ref: OIA353/1

1. I refer to your official information request dated 23 January 2024 for “the template appointment letter of KC and also the one issued to the Honourable Judith Collins”.
2. As you will be aware, your request has been transferred to the Crown Law Office.
3. The appointment of King's Counsel is undertaken as part of this Office's Law Officer functions. Previous Ombudsman's rulings and case law has established that information relating to such functions is not subject to the Official Information Act 1982 (the **Act**).

King's Counsel appointment patent wording

4. However, we acknowledge that Hon Judith Collins' appointment as King's Counsel is a matter of public interest.
5. We also note that the Patent signed by the Governor General appointing Hon Judith Collins as King's Counsel uses the same wording as all other King's Counsel appointments and thus raises no privacy concerns.
6. For those reasons, we **annex** to this letter the wording of the Patent appointing Hon Judith Collins as King's Counsel.

Your rights

7. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours faithfully

Crown Law

Peter Gunn
Crown Counsel

ANNEX 1: PATENT WORDING FOR APPOINTING HON JUDITH COLLINS AS KING'S COUNSEL

Charles The Third, by the Grace of God King of New Zealand and of His Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To: The Honourable Judith Collins, Attorney-General for New Zealand, Greeting!

WE, confiding in your knowledge, experience, prudence, ability, and integrity, do nominate, constitute, and appoint you, the said

The Honourable Judith Collins

to be one of Our Counsel learned in the Law for New Zealand for and during Our pleasure, to take rank next after Jason Keith Goodall, King's Counsel, and you are to discharge the trust hereby reposed in you to the best of your knowledge and ability, with due respect to the law and usages of New Zealand, mindful always of your obligations to the court.

Given under the hand of Our Trusty and Well-beloved The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, Chancellor and Principal Dame Grand Companion of Our New Zealand Order of Merit, Principal Companion of the Queen's Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Realm of New Zealand:

and issued under the Seal of New Zealand on this
day of two thousand and twenty-three

By Her Excellency's command.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL