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Kesh Teh

<https://fyi.org.nz/request/7664-observations-in-passports>

Dear Kesh Teh

**Official Information Act 1982 request 17/18-0378: Request for Information observation pages on New Zealand passports**

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 19 April 2018. This response is provided to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act).

*You requested*

*I am from UK and I understand that in UK you have rules for what you can request to put on your observations page of your passport, does the NZ has similar rules or polices, e.g. UK allows Justice of Peace to have their status record on their observations page.*

*Please see the link below as example, I would like to know the NZ's rules or polices for observations page, also can Justice of Peace of New Zealand or MP of New Zealand to have their status record on their observations page.*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/118562/observations-passports.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118562/observations-passports.pdf)

Please find below information about printing an endorsement in a New Zealand passport, and a table of the observations that can be printed in a passport.

**Observations in Passports**

A passport observation is where additional information is added to the observation page of a passport. This covers situations which can include:

- Photo issues - e.g. religious head coverings, temporary medical issues;
- Signature issues - e.g. accidental signing by non-holder, the holder cannot sign for medical reasons;
- Validity restrictions - e.g. limited validity for replacements, enforcement action for multiple loss of documents;
- Additional passports;
- Military observations;
- Long names.

Observations may be added during the processing of either a first time application or renewal of a document. Observations are not currently available using the Online Passport System at [www.passports.govt.nz](http://www.passports.govt.nz).

If an observation is required after a passport has been issued, the passport and a covering letter detailing the request for an observation must be provided to the Department. The timeframe for these requests is generally five working days on receipt of the passport.

A passport can only contain one observation.

### **Titles in passports**

Passports can be issued displaying the following acceptable titles:

- Honourable (Hon) for government ministers and judges;
- Right Honourable (Rt Hon) for Governors-General, Prime Ministers, Chief Justices and Speakers of the House of Representatives of New Zealand;
- titles bestowed by the Monarch.

Passports may not be issued displaying the following unacceptable titles:

- service and military ranks;
- Awards, Designations, Professional and Vocational titles, for example OBE, Dr, Rev, or Nurse;
- Pacific Island customary titles (unless displayed in a previous New Zealand passport);
- foreign titles

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Briget Ridden**  
Manager Branch Development and Support  
Service Delivery and Operations

## Passport Observations

Observation	Applicable situation
HOLDER WEARS A HEAD COVERING AS PART OF NORMAL ATTIRE	Head covering is for religious reasons.
AT TIME OF PASSPORT ISSUE THE HOLDER WORE A HEAD COVERING AS PART OF NORMAL ATTIRE	Head covering is for medical reasons and may be temporary.
HOLDER IS UNABLE TO SIGN	Holder may be disabled or too elderly to sign.
THE HOLDER'S FULL NAME IS Surname in upper case e.g. SMITH Given Names in Upper and lower case, e.g. John James	Holder's full name has too many characters.
THE HOLDER'S CORRECT SIGNATURE IS  .....	Passport is mistakenly signed by spouse or child. <b>Note:</b> Not used when the holder has changed signature. A new passport is required in this case.
THIS PASSPORT HAS BEEN SIGNED IN ERROR	A parent has signed a child's passport.
THIS PASSPORT IS VALID FOR ONE YEAR	Passport is valid for one year.
THIS PASSPORT HAS BEEN ISSUED TO REPLACE PASSPORT NO XXXXXXXX ISSUED AT XXXXXXXX ON DD MMM YYYY WHICH CONTAINED AN ERROR AND HAS BEEN CANCELLED	Passport issued over three months before being returned to the Department to correct an error in biodata.
THIS PASSPORT HAS BEEN ISSUED TO REPLACE PASSPORT NO XXXXXXXX ISSUED AT XXXXXXXX ON DD MMM YYYY WHICH WAS FAULTY AND HAS BEEN CANCELLED	Passport issued over three months before being returned to the Department to correct a fault.
THIS PASSPORT ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PASSPORTS ACT 1992 IS VALID FOR XXX YEARS	Additional passport issued. Validity as per length of passport issued.
THE HOLDER PREVIOUSLY TRAVELLED ON PASSPORT NO XXXXXXXX ISSUED AT XXXXXXXX ON DD MMM YYYY WHICH BEARS A VALID VISA AND IS ATTACHED	A previous passport bearing a valid visa is attached. Observation is put in the new passport.
THE HOLDER NOW TRAVELS ON PASSPORT NO XXXXXXXX ISSUED AT XXXXXX ON DD MMM YYYY WHICH IS ATTACHED	A previous passport bearing a valid visa is attached. Observation is put in the previous passport.
MILITARY OBSERVER WITH THE UNITED NATIONS	Requested to be included in an Official Passport.