



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

24 May 2018

John Luke
fyi-request-7734-d0eaef34@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John Luke

Inquiry: Use of honorific prefixes

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the use of “Your Worship” and “The Right Honourable” and “Honourable” titles in New Zealand.

The Honours Unit does not have responsibility for protocols regarding the use of “Your Worship”, which is a matter left to custom and general usage. However, I can advise that in New Zealand, Mayors have historically followed the styles of Mayors in England, who were styled “His or Her Worship”. In New Zealand today, individual Mayors and Councils make their own determination on the form of addresses of a Mayor.

When sitting in court, Justices of the Peace tend to be addressed as either ‘Your Worship’ or ‘Sir or Ma’am’. This is a matter of courtesy – there are no rules or statutory requirements in this regard.

In response to the second part of your query, there are rules in New Zealand for the grant, use and retention of the titles “The Right Honourable” and “Honourable”. Those rules, which are approved by the Queen, set out the office-holders who are eligible to use those titles.

You can view the rules in their entirety on the website of Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website: <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-system/components-new-zealand>.

Kind regards

Michael Webster

Michael Webster
Clerk of the Executive Council