



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

16 July 2021



Ref: OIA-2020/21-0629

Dear 

**Official Information Act request: Information relating to Ron Brierley since April 2021**

1. Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 28 May 2021. You requested:

*"All information sent, received or otherwise held relating to Ron Brierley and the knighthood (which he has since rescinded) created on and since April 1 2021."*

2. Please find **enclosed** information relevant to your request.
3. Some information has been withheld, including drafts of final emails and documents being released, and redactions to the documents provided have been made under the following sections of the Act:
  - 3.1. section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons;
  - 3.2. section 9(2)(f)(i) to maintain constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of communications by or with the Sovereign or her representatives;
  - 3.3. section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials;
  - 3.4. section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions between officials and Ministers;
  - 3.5. section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.
4. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet received a small number of media queries (less than ten) regarding Sir Ron Brierley's knighthood and the process for forfeiture. These queries have not been included in the information provided.

4391404

CABINET OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND

Telephone: (04) 830 5010 Facsimile: (04) 472 6332

[www.dpmc.govt.nz](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz)

5. A text exchange between Rachel Hayward, Deputy Secretary (Constitutional and Honours) and the Prime Minister on 30 April 2021 has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i). This exchange provided the Prime Minister with an update on the steps required for forfeiture if Mr Brierley had not responded by 5 May 2021.
6. The resignation and cancellation of Mr Brierley's Honour involved communications with the Sovereign. The content of these communications has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(i), but the fact and timing of the communications is largely reflected in the information provided.
7. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.
8. This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Michael Webster  
**Clerk of the Executive Council**

**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:04 PM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: Ron Brierley has pleaded guilty [UNCLASSIFIED]

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Shall I crack on at the start of next week, [REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i) . Should I draft some words for PMO for the PM if asked on next steps?

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:02 PM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Ron Brierley has pleaded guilty [UNCLASSIFIED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:33 PM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Sir Ron Brierley

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:30 pm  
**To:** 'Andrew Campbell' <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Cc:** Michael Webster [DPMC] <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Andrew – just a couple of suggestions, happy to discuss:

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

And you might want to direct them to the website:

<https://dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-system/forfeiture-honours>

**From:** Andrew Campbell [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 12:11 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Michael Webster [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Sir Ron Brierley

Hi

How is the following response to media queries on forfeiture

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I'll run it past the PM once you are happy with the wording.

Andrew

Andrew Campbell | Chief Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)



**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 April 2021 1:44 PM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Brierley 10 years

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Feared businessman Sir Ron Brierley sells off his \$4.2m apartment as he fights child porn charges | Daily Mail Online

"Each of the offences carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison."



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS

Memo

1 April 2021

To Prime Minister

From Rachel Hayward

Subject Potential forfeiture (cancellation) of honour: Sir Ron Brierley

**Purpose and summary**

- 1 This note provides you with advice in relation to the question of the potential forfeiture of an honour by Sir Ron Brierley, and seeks formal confirmation that you wish to initiate the process for consideration of forfeiture.

**Background**

- 2 Sir Ron Brierley was made a Knight Bachelor at NY1988, for services to business management and the community. His citation read:

*"Mr Brierley founded Brierley Investments Ltd in 1961. The company is now one of New Zealand's largest commercial organisations with major operations in Australia, Canada, USA, United Kingdom and Hong Kong. Currently Chairman of the Bank of New Zealand. President, New Zealand Cricket Foundation. Actively supports sporting, cultural and community organisations."*

- 3 On 1 April 2021 at a hearing in a local court in Sydney, Sir Ron entered a plea of guilty to three charges of possessing child sex abuse material. There were originally 17 charges – according to media reports, the remainder have been withdrawn. He will be sentenced on 30 April 2021.
- 4 We understand (but have yet to confirm) that the charges were laid under section 91H of the NSW Crimes Act 1900. The maximum sentence on each of these charges is 10 years imprisonment.

**Guidelines on forfeiture**

- 5 As you know, an award of an honour may be cancelled by the Sovereign, on the advice of the Prime Minister. The appointment of a Knight Bachelor is an appointment made by the Queen, on advice of the Prime Minister, under the Royal Prerogative (rather than under the terms of a Royal Warrant), but in terms of advice concerning cancellation, the process is essentially the same.
- 6 The Prime Minister may consider advising the Sovereign to cancel the appointment of a person to an honour where an individual's actions are such that, if they continue to hold that honour, the honours system would be brought into disrepute.



## HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

- 7 Examples include (but are not limited to) situations where the holder of an honour is sentenced to more than three months in prison, and:
- 7.1 the offence involved disloyalty to the state; or
  - 7.2 the offence was committed by a civil servant and involved serious dereliction of duty; or
  - 7.3 the offence involved other disgraceful conduct such that public opinion would consider it wrong for the offender to hold a Royal honour (bringing the honours system into disrepute).
- 8 While a sentence of imprisonment of three months or more provides something of a "bright line" test for forfeiture, it is not a requirement. Even where no sentence of imprisonment is imposed, a Prime Minister may consider that a person's conduct has been such that their continuing to hold an honour would bring the honours system into disrepute. That question is ultimately for the Prime Minister to determine.
- 9 As you know, there have not been many cases of honours being cancelled in New Zealand. Recorded cases include:
- 9.1 In 2018, Mr Hugh Hamilton, a former Mayor of the Central Hawkes Bay District forfeited his MNZM (awarded QB1997 for services to local body and community affairs), after being sentenced to four years and nine months imprisonment on charges of theft by a person in a special relationship;
  - 9.2 In 2000, Dr Morgan Fahey, a former deputy mayor of Christchurch, forfeited his OBE (awarded QB1977 for services to the community) after being sentenced to six years' imprisonment for rape, sexual violation, and sexual assault;
  - 9.3 In 1987, traffic officer David Seath forfeited his QSM (awarded NY1985 in recognition of services to traffic enforcement and road safety) after he was convicted of falsely endorsing summons notices for traffic prosecutions. He was fined \$13,000 plus \$770 costs;
  - 9.4 In 1980, the former Premier of the Cook Islands, Sir Albert Henry forfeited his KBE after he was convicted on three charges of conspiracy to defraud the Crown (fraud relating to the 1978 Cook Islands' general election). (In that case, the recommendation for cancellation came from the New Zealand government, but was discussed with the Cook Islands' Premier.)

10

s9(2)(g)(i); s 9(2)(f)(iv)

11

s9(2)(g)(i); s 9(2)(f)(iv)

### Process

- 12 Once we receive your formal confirmation that you wish to initiate the process for consideration of forfeiture, the Clerk of the Executive Council will write to Sir Ron Brierley,

HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

advising that you have decided to initiate the forfeiture process and that he has 30 days either to resign from his honour, or make representations on the prospect of revocation. If no response is received, the process will continue. Any representation he makes should be taken into account in your decision as to whether to recommend the cancellation of his honour.

13

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i); s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Recommendations

14 I recommend that you:

14.1 note that Sir Ron Brierley has entered a plea of guilty in Sydney Australia to three charges of possessing child sex abuse material, and will be sentenced on 30 April 2021;

14.2 note the maximum sentence on each of these charges is 10 years imprisonment;

14.3 note that Sir Ron Brierley holds the following New Zealand Royal honour:

14.3.1 appointment as a Knight Bachelor, at NY1988, for services to business management and the community;

14.4

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i); s 9(2)(f)(iv)

14.5 formally confirm you wish to initiate the process for consideration of forfeiture in relation to Sir Ronald Alfred Brierley's honour.

YES / NO / DISCUSS p.s. confirmed via discussion on 1 April



Rachel Hayward  
Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet (Constitutional and Honours)

  
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Prime Minister

Date: 5 / 4 / 2021

Distribution:  
Raj Nahna, Chief of Staff  
Andrew Campbell, Chief Press Secretary

**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Sir Ron Brierley's lawyer

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Sir Ron Brierley pleads guilty to possessing child sexual abuse material - NZ Herald

"My client admits he is in possession of some of the images," his lawyer, Lisa-Claire Hutchinson, told the Downing Centre Local Court, saying there was a dispute over the actual number of images on Brierley's devices.

Lisa-Claire Hutchinson - Forbes Chambers

<https://find-a-barrister.nswbar.asn.au/profile/b9414>

Her email address is : s9(2)(a)



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 12:44 PM  
**To:** Sarah Corbett [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]; Information [DPMC]; Catherine Delore [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Sir Ron Brierley

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Sarah

Could you please forward any enquiries regarding Sir Ron Brierley received in the DPMC information inbox to the [honours@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:honours@dpmc.govt.nz) inbox for a response.

Hei konā mai  
David



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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**David Williams [DPMC]**

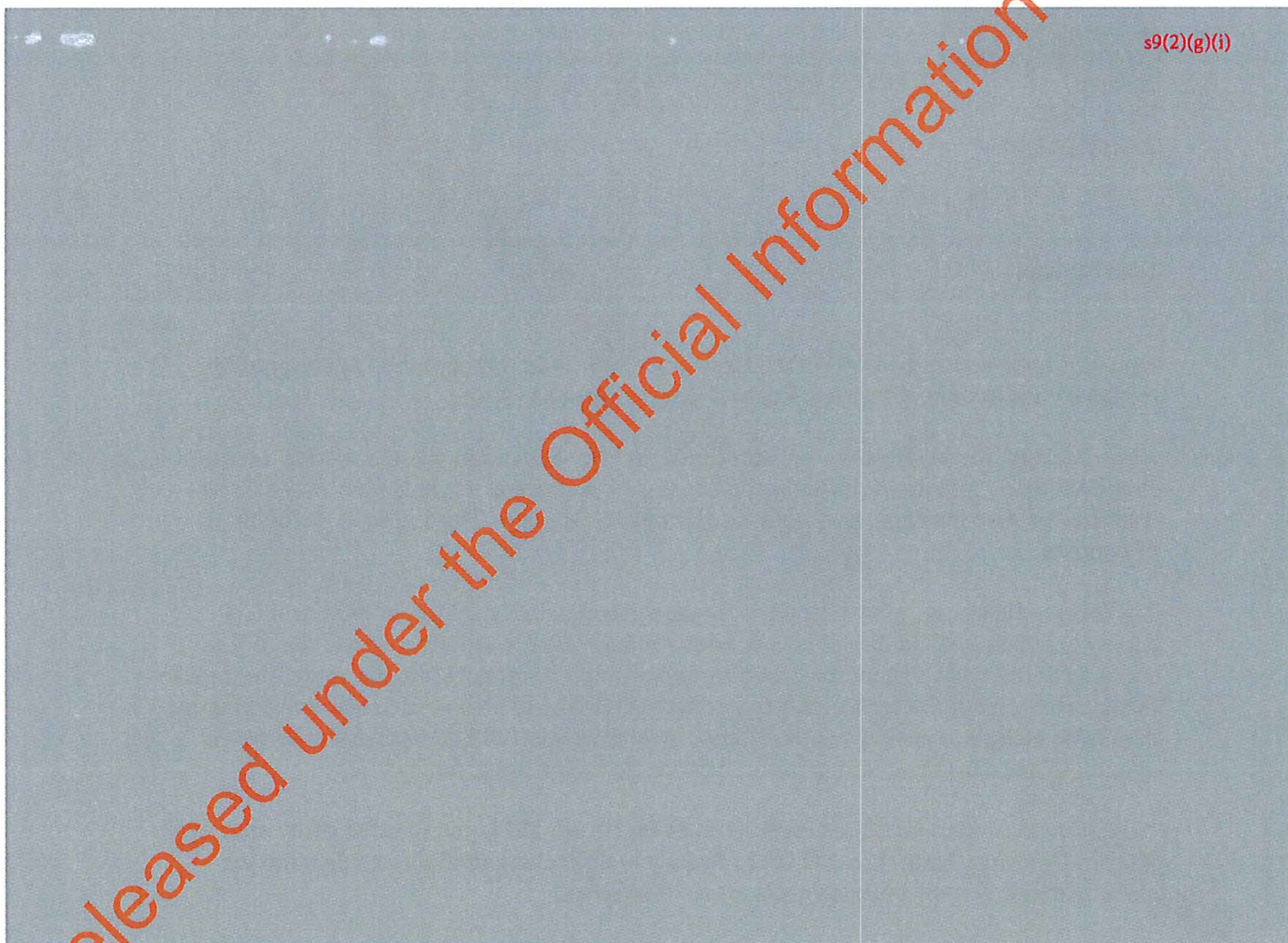
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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 1:43 PM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell; ^Parliament: Ellen Read  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** post Cabinet stand up - Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Andrew and Ellen

Some suggestions re Sir Ron Brierley for the PM's post-Cabinet stand up:



Happy to discuss,

Kind regards

Rachel





## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

6 April 2021

s9(2)(a)

Sir Ronald Brierley

s9(2)(a)

Sydney  
NSW 1225  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir Ron

I am writing to you as the Clerk of the Executive Council. In that capacity I am responsible for the administration of the New Zealand Royal Honours system.

New Zealand Royal Honours are conferred by the Sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister. Appointments of any person to a New Zealand Royal honour may also be cancelled by the Sovereign, on the advice of the Prime Minister. This is known as forfeiture of honours.

The Prime Minister may consider advising the Sovereign to cancel the appointment of a person to a New Zealand Royal honour where an individual's actions are such that, if they continue to hold that honour, the honours system would be brought into disrepute. Examples include (but are not limited to) situations where the holder of an honour is sentenced to more than three months in prison, and the offence involved disgraceful conduct such that public opinion would consider it wrong for the offender to hold a Royal honour.

According to a report published on Stuff.co.nz on 1 April 2021, you pleaded guilty on 1 April 2021 in Downing Centre Local Court in Sydney to three charges of possessing child sex abuse material. A copy of the relevant article is attached.

It is my duty to inform you that, as a result of this matter, the Prime Minister is considering recommending to Her Majesty The Queen that your appointment as a Knight Bachelor be cancelled.

Before proceeding, the Prime Minister has asked me to invite you to provide any information or submission in relation to this matter that you consider relevant. Any such information or submission should be provided to me in writing not later than 5pm (NZ time) Wednesday 5 May 2021. After that date, and having considered any material you provide in writing, the

Prime Minister will make her decision as to whether to give the proposed advice to the Sovereign.

I note for completeness that it is possible to resign your appointment as a Knight Bachelor. If you did choose to follow this course of action, you would be expected to return your insignia and your name would be removed from the Honours lists. You could no longer use the title "Sir". However in that case, while The Queen would be informed, it would not be necessary to advise her to cancel your appointment.

Yours sincerely

 s9(2)(a)

Michael Webster  
Clerk of the Executive Council

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



# Sir Ron Brierley pleads guilty to possessing child abuse material

Georgina Mitchell 12:54, Apr 01 2021

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300267557/sir-ron-brierley-pleads-guilty-to-possessing-child-abuse-material>



GEORGINA MITCHELL/SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Sir Ron Alfred Brierley (left) leaves Downing Centre Court on Thursday with his lawyer.

Wellington corporate titan Sir Ron Brierley has pleaded guilty, in a Sydney court, to possessing child abuse material.

Brierley, 83, who made his name as a corporate raider in the 1980s, was arrested and charged in December 2019 after being stopped at Sydney International Airport.

His carry-on luggage was searched, police said at the time, with police officers discovering "large amounts of child abuse material".

On Thursday, Brierley pleaded guilty in Downing Centre Local Court to three charges of possessing child abuse material, with a number of other charges of possessing child abuse material withdrawn.



His lawyer Lisa-Claire Hutchinson said her client admits to being in possession of some images, but the exact figure is "in dispute" and lower than what the police allege. When Brierley's plea was entered, he sat in the public gallery of the court holding a walking stick and was not required to stand up because of his age.

His solicitor Penny Musgrave helped him to stand and gather his belongings when it was time to leave the court. He was followed by multiple news cameras as he walked slowly to a waiting car.

Brierley was committed for sentence to the District Court and will next appear on April 30.

He remains on bail to live at an address at Point Piper in Sydney's east.

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 11:02 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Your email of 6 April [UNCLASSIFIED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Sir Ron Brierley [s9(2)(a)]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 04 May 2021, 10:44 AM  
**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC] [s9(2)(a)]  
**Subject:** RE: Your email of 6 April [UNCLASSIFIED]

The original insignia was stolen.

The replacement (ex Garrard) is locked up in London.

I will return it asap but likely to be some time.

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**From:** Michael Webster [DPMC] [s9(2)(a)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 7:49 AM  
**To:** Sir Ron Brierley [s9(2)(a)]  
**Cc:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [s9(2)(a)]  
**Subject:** RE: Your email of 6 April [UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Sir Ron

Thank you for your email, advising of your resignation as a Knight Bachelor. I have informed the Prime Minister, and the Queen. The Prime Minister will advise Her Majesty to accept your resignation, and your name will be removed from the Roll. The Prime Minister will make a statement to media shortly, informing them that you have tendered your resignation.

You may no longer use the title "Sir". Your resignation will be published in the New Zealand Gazette and the London Gazette in due course. We will let you know when those steps have been completed.

I would be grateful if you could return your insignia by courier to me at Level 10, Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011.

Yours sincerely

Michael Webster

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Sir Ron Brierley [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

**Date:** Monday, 03 May 2021, 5:10 PM

**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

**Subject:** Your email of 6 April

Thank you for your email of 6 April inviting me to provide information or submission for the Prime Minister's consideration in deciding if she should advise the Sovereign to cancel my appointment as Knight Bachelor.

I do not propose making a submission.

I wish to advise that I resign my appointment as a Knight Bachelor.

It has been a tremendous privilege to hold a New Zealand Royal Honour.

However, I do not want to bring the system into disrepute by actions that I have acknowledged and to which I have entered pleas of guilty in an Australian Court.

My wish at the present time in respect of the Honour bestowed upon me, is to minimise the impact on the Honours system by this resignation.

I therefore ask that Her Majesty the Queen be informed of my resignation.

Yours sincerely

Ron Brierley

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**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 10:58 AM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley  
**Attachments:** 304369\_letter from Clerk of the Executive Council to Sir Ron Brierley (6 April 2021).PDF

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 10:57 am  
**To:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Thank you [REDACTED] s9(2)(a). A copy of the letter is attached, with the original coming by post. I'd be grateful if you could pass it on to him.

Kind regards

Rachel

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 9:34 am  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley

Hi Rachel

I am authorised to receive and open all Sir Ron's mail so the correspondence can be sent to this email and I will on-send to him upon receipt.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Apr 2021, at 6:21 am, Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) wrote:

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Thanks very much for your message. Is there also an email address we could use to send the letter electronically?

Kind regards

Rachel

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 10:26 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley

Hi Rachel

I've been forwarded your email addressed to Ms Lisa-Claire Hutchinson and wish to confirm the correct mailing address for Sir Ron as per that email.

The correspondence should be directed to Sir Ron himself as follows –

Sir Ron Brierley  
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
NSW 1225  
Australia

Please let me know if you have any further queries.

Regards

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Executive Assistant to Sir Ron Brierley

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Rachel Hayward [DPMC]" [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** 6 April 2021 at 4:07:11 pm AEST  
**To:** Lisa-Claire Hutchinson [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Dear Ms Hutchinson

I understand from media reports that you have been acting for Sir Ron Brierley. The Clerk of the New Zealand Executive Council has some important correspondence for him. We are directing that correspondence to the last address that Sir Ron supplied to us:

Sir Ronald Brierley  
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
Sydney  
NSW 1225  
AUSTRALIA



I would be grateful if you could please advise whether you are authorised to accept correspondence on Sir Ron's behalf (both by email and post) and if not, whether you can provide me with the details of any person who is so authorised.

Kind regards

Rachel Hayward



Rachel Hayward,  
Deputy Secretary (Constitutional and Honours)  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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- b. any use, dissemination or copying of this email is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 April 2021 8:22 AM  
**To:** Penny Musgrave  
**Subject:** RE: correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley

Thanks very much Penny, I've now received that - I appreciate your help.

Kind regards

Rachel

---

**From:** Penny Musgrave [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 6 April 2021 7:56 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley

Dear Ms Hayward,

Ms Hutchinson has passed your email to me. I am the solicitor acting for Sir Ron Brierley in the proceedings which have recently received some media attention.

I have requested confirmation of the best postal address for your correspondence with Sir Ron and hope to send this through to you tomorrow.

Regards

Penny Musgrave

Principal | Musgrave Legal

T: (02) 9390 7762  
M: 0401 313 427  
E: [penny@musgravelegal.com.au](mailto:penny@musgravelegal.com.au)  
W: [www.musgravelegal.com.au](http://www.musgravelegal.com.au)  
A: Suite 819, Level 8, 185 Elizabeth Street, Sydney 2000

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Rachel Hayward [DPMC]" [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** 6 April 2021 at 4:07:11 pm AEST  
**To:** Lisa-Claire Hutchinson [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** correspondence for Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Dear Ms Hutchinson

I understand from media reports that you have been acting for Sir Ron Brierley. The Clerk of the New Zealand Executive Council has some important correspondence for him. We are directing that correspondence to the last address that Sir Ron supplied to us:

Sir Ronald Brierley

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Sydney  
NSW 1225  
AUSTRALIA

I would be grateful if you could please advise whether you are authorised to accept correspondence on Sir Ron's behalf (both by email and post) and if not, whether you can provide me with the details of any person who is so authorised.

Kind regards

Rachel Hayward



Rachel Hayward,  
Deputy Secretary (Constitutional and Honours)  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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**David Williams [DPMC]**

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**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 11:12 AM s9(2)(a)  
**To:** Dinah Okeby [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** draft response for enquires regarding Sir Ron Brierley

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Dinah, if you get any more correspondence this is our recommended response:

*Kia ora XXX*

*Thank you for your correspondence of xxxx regarding Sir Ron Brierley's honours.*

*As you may be aware, the Prime Minister's Office issued the following statement in early April:*

*"A spokesperson for the Prime Minister said there is an established process for considering the forfeiture of honours. Given the nature of the offending that has been admitted, the Prime Minister has asked the Honours Unit to initiate the first steps in that process."*

*There is information on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website about the forfeiture process and how it works: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-system/forfeiture-honours>*

Cheers  
David



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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## David Williams [DPMC]

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 2:19 PM  
**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; Louise Beard [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Sir Ron Brierley: deadline for submission  
**Attachments:** 304369\_letter from Clerk of the Executive Council to Sir Ron Brierley (6 April 2021).nrl

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Michael

Your letter of 7 April invited Sir Ron Brierley to provide any information or submission in relation to this matter to you in writing not later than 5pm (NZ time) Wednesday 5 May 2021.

Hei konā mai  
David



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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## David Williams [DPMC]

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:35 PM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: TVNZ query - Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Thanks Andrew – David and I have just been discussing the timeline here.

Sir Ron has until 5 May to respond. (That date is not public – the PM simply indicated on 1 April that she would ask for the process to be initiated. That was just before Easter, it took a few days to get his address etc.) According to media reports he is due to appear in court next on 30 April, so there won't be any action taken in relation to his knighthood before then.

We'll have a briefing ready to go to the PM either as soon as we get any feedback from Sir Ron Brierley, or as soon as the deadline expires without comment from him, whichever is earlier.

s9(2)(g)(i); 9(2)(f)(i)

Happy to discuss

Rachel

**From:** Andrew Campbell <[REDACTED]> s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 3:57 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[REDACTED]> s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: TVNZ query - Sir Ron Brierley

Hi Rachel, I will send the same answer I gave to the Herald the other day, but just thinking the 30 days that Brierley has to respond must be coming up and would be good to have a plan around that.

Andrew

**Andrew Campbell | Chief Press Secretary**

Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 27 April 2021 2:55 PM

To: Andrew Campbell <s9(2)(a)>

Subject: TVNZ query - Sir Ron Brierley

Kia ora Andrew,

s9(2)(a)

I'm wondering if there's an update on the Prime Minister's request for Sir Ron Brierley to be stripped of his knighthood?

Keen to see where in the process things are currently.

Cheers,

s9(2)(a)



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**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: TVNZ query - Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi PM – here's the email I sent Andrew earlier this week. I've added a note about today's court date.

Let me know if you need anything more,

Cheers

Rachel

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:35 pm  
**To:** 'Andrew Campbell' [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: TVNZ query - Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Thanks Andrew – David and I have just been discussing the timeline here.

Sir Ron has until 5 May to respond. (That date is not public – the PM simply indicated on 1 April that she would ask for the process to be initiated. That was just before Easter, it took a few days to get his address etc.) According to media reports he is due to appear in court next on 30 April, so there won't be any action taken in relation to his knighthood before then. *(PM – I understand that is just a call date, he's unlikely to be sentenced then.)*

We'll have a briefing ready to go to the PM either as soon as we get any feedback from Sir Ron Brierley, or as soon as the deadline expires without comment from him, whichever is earlier.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Happy to discuss,

Rachel



**From:** Andrew Campbell <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 3:57 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** FW: TVNZ query - Sir Ron Brierley

Hi Rachel, I will send the same answer I gave to the Herald the other day, but just thinking the 30 days that Brierley has to respond must be coming up and would be good to have a plan around that.

Andrew

**Andrew Campbell | Chief Press Secretary**  
**Office of the Prime Minister of New Zealand**

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** TVNZ query - Sir Ron Brierley

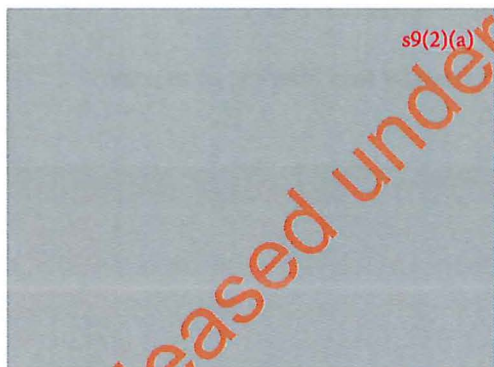
Kia ora Andrew,

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

I'm wondering if there's an update on the Prime Minister's request for Sir Ron Brierley to be stripped of his knighthood?

Keen to see where in the process things are currently.

Cheers,



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**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Griffen Ritchie [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 1:32 PM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Brierley London Gazette

[UNCLASSIFIED]

[data.pdf \(thegazette.co.uk\)](#)



**Griffen Ritchie | Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Wednesday, 30th December 1987

Published by Authority

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*Registered as a Newspaper*

---

THURSDAY, 31ST DECEMBER 1987

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

ST. JAMES'S PALACE, LONDON S.W.1

31st December 1987

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to signify her intention of conferring the Honour of Knighthood upon the undermentioned:

**Knights Bachelor**

John Mokonuiarangi BENNETT, Q.S.O. For services to education.

Ronald Alfred BRIERLEY. For services to business management and the community.

Murray Gordon HALBERG, M.B.E. For services to sport and crippled children.

The Honourable (Mr. Justice) James Peter QUILLIAM, Judge of the High Court.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

ST. JAMES'S PALACE, LONDON S.W.1

31st December 1987

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George:

**D.C.M.G.**

*To be an Ordinary Member of the Second Class, or Dame Commander of the said Most Distinguished Order:*

The Honourable (Margaret) Ann HERCUS. For public services.

**C.M.G.**

*To be Ordinary Members of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Distinguished Order:*

Charles Frederick Sutton CALDWELL. For services to education and the community.

John William Harris CLARK, Secretary of Trade and Industry.

John Thomas KNEEBONE. For public services and services to agriculture.



**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 May 2021 5:49 PM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Your email of 6 April

[SEEMAIL][SENSITIVE]

Rachel and David

Please see below.

As to next steps, can you please keep me in the loop (I am out of the office all day tomorrow but will check emails etc), and can I have a suitable reply to send to Ron Brierley – would we wish to cover off next steps, timing etc in that so that he is aware?

Ngā mihi

Michael

**From:** Sir Ron Brierley <s9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 May 2021 5:11 pm  
**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC] <s9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** Your email of 6 April

Thank you for your email of 6 April inviting me to provide information or submission for the Prime Minister's consideration in deciding if she should advise the Sovereign to cancel my appointment as Knight Bachelor.

I do not propose making a submission.

I wish to advise that I resign my appointment as a Knight Bachelor.

It has been a tremendous privilege to hold a New Zealand Royal Honour.

However, I do not want to bring the system into disrepute by actions that I have acknowledged and to which I have entered pleas of guilty in an Australian Court.

My wish at the present time in respect of the Honour bestowed upon me, is to minimise the impact on the Honours system by this resignation.

I therefore ask that Her Majesty the Queen be informed of my resignation.

Yours sincerely

Ron Brierley

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

Text exchange between Michael Webster, Clerk of the Executive Council and Rachel Hayward, Deputy Secretary (Constitutional and Honours)

Monday 3 May 5:38 PM

MW – [REDACTED] Out of scope. I have just got an email from Sir Ron Brierley. He resigns his appointment as a Knight Bachelor. Will forward to you and David.  
RH – Thanks.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 10:18 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: resignation [UNCLASSIFIED]

Great, thanks

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 04 May 2021, 10:16 AM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)> Michael Webster [DPMC]  
<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** resignation

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

I just spoke to PPOS [REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]

Hei konā mai,

Nāku, nā Rachel



Rachel Hayward,  
Deputy Secretary (Constitutional and Honours)  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)



## David Williams [DPMC]

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 10:23 AM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell; ^Parliament: Rajesh Nahna  
**Cc:** Michael Webster [DPMC]; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: Ron Brierley

Thanks Andrew, that sounds good – if you can send me a draft, I'll keep an eye on my phone.

s9(2)(f)(i)

**From:** Andrew Campbell s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 10:19 am  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a) ^Parliament: Rajesh Nahna  
s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Michael Webster [DPMC] s9(2)(a) David Williams [DPMC]  
s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Ron Brierley

Hi

We are keen to get this out today. I'll work that up into a media statement to go around 1pm and PM can speak to it on the bridge

Andrew

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 04 May 2021, 10:14 AM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell s9(2)(a) Raj Nahna s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Michael Webster s9(2)(a) David Williams s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Ron Brierley s9(2)(a)

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Raj and Andrew

We received an email from Sir Ron Brierley last night to say he resigns his appointment as a Knight Bachelor. You will recall that we wrote to him in April to advise that the PM had initiated the process for the forfeiture of honours, and he had until Wednesday 5 May to respond with any comment. (FYI – In the email he noted that he did not want to bring the honours system into disrepute by actions that he had acknowledged and to which he had entered pleas of guilty in an Australian Court.)

The PM is aware that he has resigned.

s9(2)(f)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

We have emailed Ron Brierley to acknowledge receipt, and have told him the PM is likely to inform media shortly.

#### Background

Sir Ron Brierley was appointed as a Knight Bachelor at NY1988, for services to business management and the community.

On 1 April 2021 at a hearing in a local court in Sydney, Sir Ron entered a plea of guilty to three charges of possessing child sex abuse material. He has not yet been sentenced.

Happy to discuss – Andrew, I'm supposed to be at an off-site at 11am but just give me a call.

Hei konā mai,

Nāku, nā Rachel



Rachel Hayward,  
Deputy Secretary (Constitutional and Honours)  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

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**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
**Subject:** FYI [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Nerina - just to let you know, Sir Ron Brierley has resigned his knighthood. I understand the PM will put out a media statement about 1pm - (obviously keep it under your hat please till it's public, I'll let you know when it goes out). If Govt House gets any questions after the announcement, just direct them to PMO.

s9(2)(f)(i)

Thanks!

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))



**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

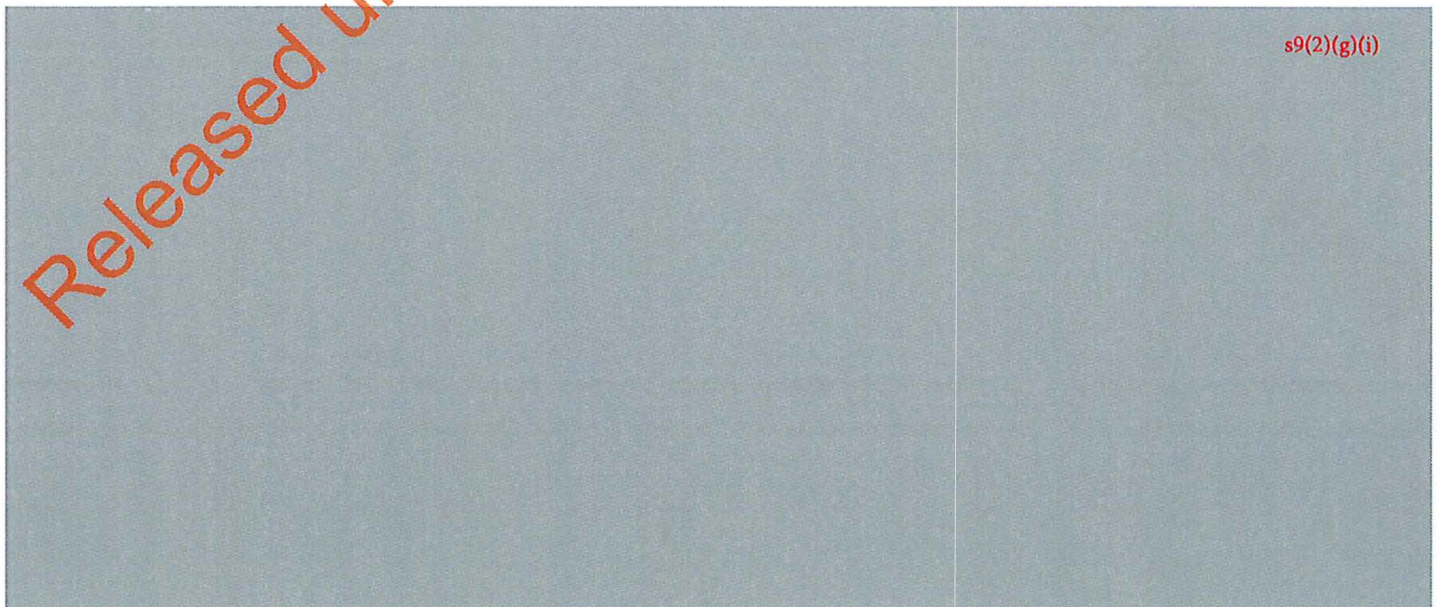
**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 1:36 PM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell; Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Catherine Delore [DPMC]; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: Draft statement on Ron Brierley [UNCLASSIFIED]



Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** Andrew Campbell <[redacted] s9(2)(a)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 04 May 2021, 1:09 PM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[redacted] s9(2)(a)> Michael Webster [DPMC]  
[redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Catherine Delore [DPMC] [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Draft statement on Ron Brierley



Released under the Official Information Act 1982



**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 1:51 PM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC]; Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: PR: Prime Minister - Ron Brierley knighthood to go [UNCLASSIFIED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 04 May 2021, 1:47 PM  
**Subject:** FW: PR: Prime Minister - Ron Brierley knighthood to go

## **Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern**

**Prime Minister  
MP for Mt Albert**



**PĀNUI PĀPĀHO  
MEDIA STATEMENT**

4 May 2021

## **Ron Brierley knighthood to go**

Ron Brierley has written to the Clerk of the Executive Council to tender his resignation as a Knight Bachelor. The Queen has been informed.

The forfeiture follows the Prime Minister initiating the process to remove his Knighthood.

The Clerk of the Executive Council wrote to him on 6 April 2021 on behalf of the Prime Minister, giving him 30 days in which to provide any information that he considered relevant before the Prime Minister made her decision.

Ron Brierley may no longer use the title "Sir", and he has been asked to return his insignia.

**Media contact:**  
**Andrew Campbell, +64 21 243 8573**  
[andrew.campbell@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.campbell@parliament.govt.nz)



**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 3:04 PM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Your email of 6 April [UNCLASSIFIED]

---

**From:** Michael Webster [DPMC] <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 9:49 am  
**To:** Sir Ron Brierley [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: Your email of 6 April [UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Sir Ron

Thank you for your email, advising of your resignation as a Knight Bachelor. I have informed the Prime Minister, and the Queen. The Prime Minister will advise Her Majesty to accept your resignation, and your name will be removed from the Roll. The Prime Minister will make a statement to media shortly, informing them that you have tendered your resignation.

You may no longer use the title "Sir". Your resignation will be published in the New Zealand Gazette and the London Gazette in due course. We will let you know when those steps have been completed.

I would be grateful if you could return your insignia by courier to me at Level 10, Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011.

Yours sincerely

Michael Webster

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Sir Ron Brierley [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Monday, 03 May 2021, 5:10 PM  
**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC] <[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** Your email of 6 April

Thank you for your email of 6 April inviting me to provide information or submission for the Prime Minister's consideration in deciding if she should advise the Sovereign to cancel my appointment as Knight Bachelor.

I do not propose making a submission.

I wish to advise that I resign my appointment as a Knight Bachelor.

It has been a tremendous privilege to hold a New Zealand Royal Honour.

However, I do not want to bring the system into disrepute by actions that I have acknowledged and to which I have entered pleas of guilty in an Australian Court.

My wish at the present time in respect of the Honour bestowed upon me, is to minimise the impact on the Honours system by this resignation.

I therefore ask that Her Majesty the Queen be informed of my resignation.

Yours sincerely

Ron Brierley

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## HONOURS: IN CONFIDENCE

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS

Memo

6 May 2021

**To** Prime Minister

**From** Rachel Hayward

**Subject** Sir Ron Brierley— resignation

**Summary**

- 1 On 4 April you announced that Ron Brierley had tendered his resignation as a Knight Bachelor. This briefing asks you to sign the formal advice to the Queen recommending that she accept that resignation and direct that the conferral of his knighthood be cancelled and annulled.

**Background**

- 2 Sir Ron Brierley was appointed as a Knight Bachelor on the New Year 1988 Honours list, for services to business management and the community. The knighthood was “conferred” in a ceremony at Government House Wellington on 18 May 1988.
- 3 On 1 April 2021 at a hearing in a local court in Sydney, Sir Ron entered a plea of guilty to three charges of possessing child sex abuse material.
- 4 The Clerk of Executive Council wrote to Sir Ron to inform him that as a result of these matters, you were considering recommending to the Queen that his appointment as a Knight Bachelor be cancelled. He was invited to provide any information or submission in relation to the matter that he considered relevant, by Wednesday 5 May 2021.
- 5 Sir Ron replied by email dated 3 May 2021, tendering his resignation as a Knight Bachelor.  
[REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(i)
- 6 On 4 May you announced that Ron Brierley had resigned as a Knight Bachelor.

**Next steps**

- 7 The remaining steps in this process are as follows:
- 7.1 You make a formal submission to The Queen recommending that she accept Ron Brierley’s resignation and direct that the conferral of his knighthood be cancelled and annulled;
- 7.2 The Queen gives her formal approval;



HONOURS: IN CONFIDENCE

- 7.3 The resignation, and the cancellation and annulment of the knighthood is published in the *New Zealand Gazette* and in the *London Gazette*.

**Recommendations**

8 I recommend that you:

- 8.1 **agree** to recommend to The Queen that she accept the resignation of Ronald Alfred Brierley as a Knight Bachelor, and direct that the conferral of his knighthood be cancelled and annulled;

**AGREE / DISAGREE**

- 8.2 **sign** the attached advice to The Queen, and the covering letter to her Private Secretary.

*Attachments withheld under s 9(2)(f)(i)*



Rachel Hayward  
Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet (Constitutional and Honours)

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

Date: 7 / 5 / 2021

**Distribution:**

Raj Nahna, Chief of Staff

**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Ellen Read [s9(2)(a)]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 May 2021 4:07 PM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; Andrew Campbell  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC]; Catherine Delore [DPMC]; Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: Gazette notice - Ron Brierley

Many thanks Rachel.

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

[s9(2)(a)]  
Authorised by Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington  
[SEEMAIL]

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [mailto:[s9(2)(a)]]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 May 2021 4:01 PM  
**To:** Andrew Campbell <[s9(2)(a)]>; Ellen Read [s9(2)(a)]  
**Cc:** David Williams <[s9(2)(a)]>; Catherine Delore [s9(2)(a)]; Michael Webster <[s9(2)(a)]>  
**Subject:** Gazette notice - Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Andrew and Ellen,

We've now had formal notification from the Palace that the Queen has accepted Ron Brierley's resignation as a knight and directed that his knighthood be annulled. The next step is for the publication of a Gazette notice to that effect. That will be published in the NZ Gazette tomorrow – text attached fyi.

[s9(2)(g)(i)]

Hope that all makes sense, let me know if you need anything more from us.

Hei konā mai,

Nāku, nā Rachel



Rachel Hayward,  
Deputy Secretary (Constitutional and Honours)  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

[s9(2)(a)]

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NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

**Resignation and Cancellation of an Honour**

The Queen has accepted the resignation of **Ronald Alfred Brierley**, of Sydney, Australia, as a Knight Bachelor, and directed that the Knighthood announced on 31 December 1987, and conferred upon him on 18 May 1988, be cancelled and annulled.

Dated at Wellington this 14th day of May 2021.

MICHAEL WEBSTER, Clerk of the Executive Council.

(Her Majesty's approval of this Knighthood was signified on 31 December 1987.)

2021-vr1895

---

**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 May 2021 10:44 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Cc:** ^Parliament: Phillip O'Shea [s9(2)(a)]; Griffen Ritchie [DPMC]; Preity Chand [DPMC]; Anna Fleming [DPMC]  
**Subject:** New Zealand Gazette notice: Resignation and Cancellation of Ron Brierley's honour  
**Attachments:** New Zealand Gazette notice - Brierley - resignation and cancellation of honour (18 May 2021).pdf

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Michael and Rachel

The *New Zealand Gazette* has published the notice relating to the resignation and cancellation of Ron Brierley's honour.

I have attached a copy of the notice, and include the following link to the New Zealand Gazette website: [Resignation and Cancellation of an Honour - 2021-vr1895 - New Zealand Gazette](#)

Michael: I will also prepare a draft email for you to send to Mr Brierley enclosing a copy of the published notice.

Hei konā mai  
David



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

[s9(2)(a)]

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**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Phillip O'Shea [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 May 2021 11:00 AM  
**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC]; Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Mr Brierley

The following messages from the Clerk of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor and The Rev Dr Peter Galloway, who is writing the ISKB history. Brierley was a Life Member of the ISKB.

Dear Phillip,

Many thanks for your email. All noted, and we will remove Mr Brierley's name from our database and records. We will also write to him to confirm this - as we have done on number of occasions in recent years.

Yours ever,

Simon

WSG Doughty  
Clerk to the Council  
The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Out of scope



**David Williams [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 May 2021 5:11 PM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Knighthood  
**Attachments:** New Zealand Gazette notice - Brierley - resignation and cancellation of honour (18 May 2021).pdf

**From:** Michael Webster [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 May 2021 6:08 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Knighthood

Dear Mr Brierley

Further to my email of 4 May 2021, I wish to advise you that on 14 May 2021 The Queen accepted your resignation as a Knight Bachelor, and directed that your Knighthood be cancelled and annulled.

Today a notice relating to this action was published in the *New Zealand Gazette*. I have attached a copy of the notice and it can also be found on their website: <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2021-vr1895>.

Yours sincerely

Michael Webster

**From:** Sir Ron Brierley s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 04 May 2021, 10:44 AM  
**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Your email of 6 April [UNCLASSIFIED]

The original insignia was stolen.

The replacement (ex Garrard) is locked up in London.

I will return it asap but likely to be some time.

**From:** Michael Webster [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 7:49 AM  
**To:** Sir Ron Brierley s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Your email of 6 April [UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Sir Ron

Thank you for your email, advising of your resignation as a Knight Bachelor. I have informed the Prime Minister, and the Queen. The Prime Minister will advise Her Majesty to accept your resignation, and your name will be removed

from the Roll. The Prime Minister will make a statement to media shortly, informing them that you have tendered your resignation.

You may no longer use the title "Sir". Your resignation will be published in the New Zealand Gazette and the London Gazette in due course. We will let you know when those steps have been completed.

I would be grateful if you could return your insignia by courier to me at Level 10, Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011.

Yours sincerely

Michael Webster

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

From: Sir Ron Brierley [s9(2)(a)]

Date: Monday, 03 May 2021, 5:10 PM

To: Michael Webster [DPMC] [s9(2)(a)]

Subject: Your email of 6 April

Thank you for your email of 6 April inviting me to provide information or submission for the Prime Minister's consideration in deciding if she should advise the Sovereign to cancel my appointment as Knight Bachelor.

I do not propose making a submission.

I wish to advise that I resign my appointment as a Knight Bachelor.

It has been a tremendous privilege to hold a New Zealand Royal Honour.

However, I do not want to bring the system into disrepute by actions that I have acknowledged and to which I have entered pleas of guilty in an Australian Court.

My wish at the present time in respect of the Honour bestowed upon me, is to minimise the impact on the Honours system by this resignation.

I therefore ask that Her Majesty the Queen be informed of my resignation.

Yours sincerely

Ron Brierley

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

**Resignation and Cancellation of an Honour**

The Queen has accepted the resignation of **Ronald Alfred Brierley**, of Sydney, Australia, as a Knight Bachelor, and directed that the Knighthood announced on 31 December 1987, and conferred upon him on 18 May 1988, be cancelled and annulled.

Dated at Wellington this 14th day of May 2021.

MICHAEL WEBSTER, Clerk of the Executive Council.

(Her Majesty's approval of this Knighthood was signified on 31 December 1987.)

2021-vr1895

18-05-2021 10:24



