



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

13 April 2026

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0535

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Official Information Act request: Titles and position of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 25 February 2026. You requested:

*Under the Official Information Act I am making a request for information about the titles and position of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor.*

*On Tuesday, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said there had been discussions over the past six months about Andrew's positions, titles, and also place in the line of succession.*

*Please provide:*

- *Those discussions.*
- *Any written advice, memos and briefings about Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor.*

*For clarity:*

- *Discussions include but are not limited to emails, text messages (or messages on other apps) and letters, addressed to or received by DPMC.*

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 13 working days because it necessitated consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

### **Information being released**

I have decided to release the information you have requested listed in the table below, subject to information being withheld as noted. Where information has been withheld in full it has not been provided. The relevant grounds under which information has been withheld are:

5149305

CABINET OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND

Telephone: +64 (4) 830 5010. Email: CabinetOffice@dpmc.govt.nz

www.dpmc.govt.nz

1. Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
2. Section 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
3. Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
4. Section 9(2)(f)(i), to protect the confidentiality of Sovereign communications
5. Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
6. Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion

Item	date	Description	Release decision
1	24/02/2026	advice to PMO on reply to Journalist regarding Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor (AMW) 1990 medal	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(g)(i)
2	24/02/2026	emails with PMO regarding Cabinet Office correspondence	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a)
3	24/02/2026	emails with PMO regarding Cabinet Office correspondence	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a)
4	24/02/2026	emails with PMO regarding final comment from the PM on succession	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a)
5	24/02/2026	emails with PMO regarding draft comment on succession	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(g)(i)
6	23/02/2026	email to PMO informing of correspondence from UK Cabinet Office and process for previous law of succession changes in 2013	Released with partial redaction under s6(a), s6(b)(i), and s9(2)(a)
7	23/02/2026	email chain with PMO & DPMC media on responding to AMW queries	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a)
8	23/02/2026	email with the Governor-General	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
9	23/02/2026	email from UK Cabinet Office	withheld in full under s6(a) & s6(b)(i)
10	22/02/2026	emails with PMO regarding a media enquiry	Released with partial redaction under s6(a), s6(b)(i), and s9(2)(a)
11	19/12/2025	advice for Antarctic Naming Committee	Released with partial redactions under s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), or out of scope
12	16/12/2025	email regarding response to enquiry regarding AMW's New Zealand titles and honours	Released in full

13	10/12/2025	email with PMO confirming cancellation of AMW 1990 medal	Released with partial redactions under s9(2)(a)
14	9/12/2025	email with the Governor-General	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
15	4/12/2025	email from the Palace	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
16	2/12/2025	documents relating to cancellation of AMW's UK titles	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
17	21/11/2025	documents sent to the Palace regarding cancellation of AMW 1990 medal	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
18	19/11/2025	email with the Governor-General	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
19	14/11/2025	note to PM on process for cancellation of AMW's 1990 medal	Released with partial redactions under s9(2)(f)(i)
20	10/11/2025	emails with the Palace regarding AMW 1990 medal	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
21	5/11/2025	email to PMO regarding succession	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a)
22	5/11/2025	email from the PM regarding 1990 medal	Released with partial redactions under s9(2)(a), s9(2)(f)(iv), and s9(2)(g)(i)
23	3/11/2025	email to PMO regarding AMW NZ Honours	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a)
24	3/11/2025	email to PMO regarding the line of succession	Released with partial redaction under s9(2)(a)
25	3/11/2025	international correspondence	Withheld in full under s6(a) and s6(b)(i)
26	2/11/2025	record of conversation with the Palace and international correspondence	Withheld in full under s6(a), s6(b)(i), and s9(2)(f)(i)
27	31/10/2025	email with the Governor-General	Withheld in full under s9(2)(f)(i)
28	31/10/2025	enquiry regarding AMW's NZ titles and honours	Released with partial redactions under s9(2)(a)

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward  
**Clerk of the Executive Council**

Proactively Released

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 5:00 pm  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Finn (Matt and Kathrine, fyi)

Here's a suggested response with an outline of the process. 9(2)(g)(i)

*In October 2025, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor made a public statement that he no longer intended to use the honours that had been conferred on him. The New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal had been conferred on him, along with other members of the Royal Family, in 1990.*

*When a person voluntarily relinquishes an honour, the award still needs to be formally cancelled. In the case of an award of the 1990 Medal to a member of the Royal Family, the warrant establishing the medal states that it must be the Sovereign who cancels the award (not the Governor-General).*

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1990/0024/latest/whole.html>

*The Prime Minister wrote to the King in November 2025 to recommend that the King direct that the award of the 1990 Medal be cancelled and annulled, and that Mr Mountbatten-Windsor's name be erased from the Register of the Medal. The Palace advised that the cancellation had been approved in December 2025. The Clerk of the Executive Council wrote to Mr Mountbatten-Windsor in December 2025 to inform him that the award of the Medal had been cancelled.*

*The warrant establishing the 1990 Medal does not require the publication in the New Zealand Gazette of the cancellation of an award of the Medal. This is in contrast to a number of other honours, where gazettal of forfeiture is required.*

Happy to discuss further. If you could forward me your final response, I'll let the Palace know.

Rachel

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**From:** Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 3:47 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor

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**From:** Journalist 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 3:26 PM  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor

Thanks Finn, yes I saw the statement, thank you.

RE: the medal, I can't see any notice or reporting of this. What was the process - did the PM write to the GG? Can we get a copy of the letter? And how come it wasn't made public at the time (apologies if I am missing it).

--  
Journalist 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 3:20 PM Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hi 9(2)(a)

The award to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor of the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal was cancelled in December 2025, by the King on the advice of the Prime Minister.

On your second question, assuming you've now seen our statements on it but the below is attributable to a spokesperson for the PM:

*"If the UK Government proposes to remove Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor from the order of succession, New Zealand would support it. The UK Government has said any proposals would come after the police investigation concludes."*

Cheers  
Finn

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**From:** Journalist 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 11:27 AM  
**To:** PMO-Press <[PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor

Kia ora all,

In 1990, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor was awarded the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal (to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi).

Can I ask if the PM has written to the Governor-General about beginning the procedure of stripping him of the medal? If so, can you give more detail (such as when, and what is the process?)

The Australian government has confirmed it would support any proposal to remove Mr Mountbatten-Windsor from the royal line of succession. Does the NZ government support this move and has support been expressed?

Many thanks,

Journalist 9(2)(a)

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Journalist 9(2)(a)

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**From:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: UK Cabinet Office  
**Date:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 2:46:40 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Just confirming that I have spoken to Finn and indicated the areas where the timeline has got confused.

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**From:** Finn Stichbury <Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 2:01 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>; PMO-Press <PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: UK Cabinet Office

Thanks Rachel, can you please cast your eye over this rough transcript and I'll give you a call soon:

Amelia Wade: Why is New Zealand supporting the removal of Andrew Mountbatten?

PM: Oh look, the UK Government's leading that work and that decision. All I've said is we'll definitely support whatever they come to and we would definitely support that. We've been in contact with the UK Cabinet Office over the last week or so and our view is the UK Government wanting to put all options on the table. Obviously, the investigation needs to close out before they would then pass legislation to remove him from the line of succession. The bottom line is no one's above the law and once that investigation's closed, should the UK Government decide they want to remove him from the line of succession.

Adam Hollingworth: So you wouldn't go in like Anthony Albanese and pre-emptively write a letter then?

PM: We've already been in conversation with the UK Cabinet Office and they know we are supportive should they remove him from the line of succession, we would be very supportive of that decision.

Jason Walls: What do those conversations look like, with the Cabinet Office, who were you specifically talking to?

PM: Well our Cabinet Office talks to their Cabinet Office and we have conversations with the UK Government at an official level all the time.

Jason Walls: Was it you personally?

PM: No. But it's our officials and our position's well understood and that's been important

and I'm telling you what our position is now.

Jason Walls: Do you think it's important that prime minister Anthony Albanese made this very public declaration, he wrote a letter, do you think it's important that you do something the same, rather than leaving it at an official to official level?

PM: Well I think it's important that the UK Government are leading on their thinking around the line of succession. They will only pass legislation once all investigations are completed. All I've signalled to them and they well understand our position which is that we would very much support that. They have to go off obviously and get support of 14 Realm countries around the world and should they come to that decision, that's something we would be very supportive of.

Amelia Wade: Why was this announcement made in a WhatsApp message rather than an official letter?

PM: We can announce it any way, our position is clear. It's the same position as the Australian position but rather than a formal letter, we've been having conversations directly with the UK Government as you'd expect.

Jason Walls: Why not do both? A formal letter is a powerful message to something that has been a messy saga really underplays it. (?)

PM: So guys, I just say, if you want to get caught in process, this is a story where we've made it very clear. Should the UK Government remove him from the line of succession after they've completed all investigations, which is what the UK Government is telling us is what they would do. All we've signalled is that we would support that. I'm telling you publicly, we're talking about it now. That's the key thing. Should he be removed from the line of succession, New Zealand would support that decision.

Amelia Wade: Do you think this whole saga has been damaging for the royal family?

PM: Well again, nobody's above the law. I'm conscious there's an ongoing investigation in place but we expect everybody to be treated by the law. What we have seen has been incredibly disturbing, incredibly concerning. But as I said, should he be removed? And that's something the UK Government wants to do and if there's anything else, they've got all options on the table.

Amelia Wade: Why is this action [unclear] and it wasn't [unclear] on the release of Virginia Giuffre's memoir?

PM: Well again, new information has come to light, obviously the UK Government leads a conversation about line of succession. It does need the sign on of 14 other Realm countries, from memory. And all we can do is say "look, we'd be very supportive of that, should that be the decision of the UK Government." We would sign up for that. This has been a horrific amount of abuse that has taken place across this country, across the world,

you've seen elites involved and connected to Epstein in a way that is just utterly unacceptable but again, we've got an investigation going on. The UK Government by its own admission says that all options are on the table. But they will look at legislation and what they need to do post that investigation playing out.

Jason Walls: This saga has again spurred republicans in New Zealand to ask the question, should we still be part of the commonwealth?

PM: I haven't seen a lot of public media reporting of republican views in light of all of that. I think everyone finds the Epstein situation abhorrent. Everyone finds the abuse of young women in the way that has clearly happened unacceptable and just abhorrent again and as you know it's about a specific issue in this case, which has been talked about in the UK this week. We just want to reassure the British Government that should they make that decision, we would support that.

Adam Hollingworth: [Unclear] a bad egg isn't it?

PM: We don't make that decision. You make the process in terms of constitutional line of succession. It's legislation that needs to get passed, led by the UK Government but with the endorsement and support of the other Realm countries. The UK Government has stressed to us, there's an investigation ongoing. That needs to get closed out before any legislation would be implemented and brought to their parliament. Of course, all I'm signalling is should they wish to remove him from the line of succession, we would support that.

Jason Walls: On the communication between our Cabinet Office and their Cabinet Office, did that happen before or after Anthony Albanese's letter?

PM: We've talked about this over recent days.

Jason Walls: So before the letter came out?

PM: Yes.

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 1:28 PM

**To:** Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>; PMO-Press <[PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <[grace.miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:grace.miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: UK Cabinet Office

**Importance:** High

Further to this Finn, we've just seen Stuff reporting the PM as saying the NZ Cabinet Office had communicated its position prior to Mr Albanese's letter to Keir Starmer – the inference

in the article is that the position we communicated before the Australian letter was that NZ would support removing AMW if the UK proposed it. As you know, that's not correct – you may wish to clarify.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/politics/360942752/luxon-says-he-open-andrew-being-cut-line-succession>

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 1:22 pm

**To:** Finn S tichbury <[finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>; PMO-Press <[pmo-press@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:pmo-press@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <[Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** UK Cabinet Office

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Finn

Just noting for your information the dates of our exchanges with the UK Cabinet Office about the line of succession and AMW:

- Sunday 22 February late evening: the UK Cabinet Office sent us an email setting out the UK government's position on succession. I responded to acknowledge receipt.
- Monday 23 February – NZ Cabinet Office informed the UK Cabinet Office that in response to media queries PMO would point to the UK position.
- Tuesday 24 February – NZ Cabinet Office advised UK Cabinet Office that if the UK Government proposes to remove Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor from the order of succession, New Zealand would support it.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a)  
**Email:** [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

*The Cabinet Office is a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.*

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**Cc:** [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#); [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: UK Cabinet Office  
**Date:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 2:06:32 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Thanks Finn – call when it suits you.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 2:01 pm  
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unacceptable but again, we've got an investigation going on. The UK Government by its own admission says that all options are on the table. But they will look at legislation and what they need to do post that investigation playing out.

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Jason Walls: So before the letter came out?

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**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <[grace.miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:grace.miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: UK Cabinet Office

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<https://www.stuff.co.nz/politics/360942752/luxon-says-he-open-andrew-being-cut-line-succession>

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 1:22 pm

**To:** Finn Stichbury <[finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>; PMO-Press <[pmo-press@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:pmo-press@parliament.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <[Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** UK Cabinet Office

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Finn

Just noting for your information the dates of our exchanges with the UK Cabinet Office about the line of succession and AMW:

- Sunday 22 February late evening: the UK Cabinet Office sent us an email setting out the UK government's position on succession. I responded to acknowledge receipt.
- Monday 23 February – NZ Cabinet Office informed the UK Cabinet Office that in response to media queries PMO would point to the UK position.
- Tuesday 24 February – NZ Cabinet Office advised UK Cabinet Office that if the UK Government proposes to remove Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor from the order of succession, New Zealand would support it.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a)

Email: [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: can you send me the final wording of your response on succession?  
**Date:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 12:12:45 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

I've just let Finn know he should tell Hon Goldsmith's office as Justice administer the Royal Succession Act - I'll give Kim Smith at MOJ a call.

---

**From:** Finn Stichbury <Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 11:53:20 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: can you send me the final wording of your response on succession?

Here is a comment attributable to a spokesperson for the Prime Minister:

*If the UK Government proposes to remove Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor from the order of succession, New Zealand would support it. The UK Government has said any proposals would come after the police investigation concludes.*

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 11:53 AM  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** can you send me the final wording of your response on succession?

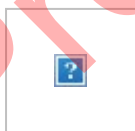
[IN-CONFIDENCE]

classification - administrative

So I can send it on – the PM can then say the UK government has been informed.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a)  
**Email:** [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Finn Stichbury](#)  
**Cc:** [PMO-Press](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#); [PM Office staff](#) ; [^Parliament: Cameron Burrows](#); [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Draft comment on Andrew  
**Date:** Tuesday, 24 February 2026 11:21:05 am

---

Thanks Finn - just confirming there are 15 Realms.

9(2)(g)(i)

---

**From:** Finn Stichbury <Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 10:52 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** PMO-Press <PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz>; ^Parliament: SarahBoyle  
[PM Office Staff 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) ; ^Parliament: Cameron Burrows <Cameron.burrows@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Draft comment on Andrew

Hi Rachel,

Here is a draft response for feedback.

Attributable to a spokesperson for the PM:

9(2)(g)(i)

Finn Stichbury  
Chief Press Secretary  
Office of Rt Hon Chris Luxon  
021 528 488

**From:** PM  
**To:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#); [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: line of succession  
**Date:** Monday, 23 February 2026 4:08:34 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Thanks Rachel

---


**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 February 2026 3:48 PM  
**To:** PM Office Staff 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <grace.miles@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** line of succession

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Just letting you know as our chief PMO Royal person that we had correspondence from the UK Cabinet Office over the weekend, setting out their public position on calls to remove Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor from the line of succession:

6(a) & 6(b)(i)



I have shared that with Finn and PMO Media, and they are using a standard line to respond to media inquiries – there have been a couple from the UK today.

You may remember the process that New Zealand went through when the law of succession was amended in 2013 so that it was no longer based on gender. The changes were agreed at a meeting alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth, Australia, in October 2011, and in subsequent discussions between the Realms.

New Zealand had to pass its own legislation, which occurred in 2013, but the commencement of that legislation had to wait until all the Realms were in a position to introduce the changes, to avoid asymmetric rules of Royal succession arising across the Realms. That took quite a while - by agreement, all the Realms finally took steps to

commence their legislation on the same day in March 2015. Hopefully that experience ironed out the process so it would be more streamlined today if further changes were to be made.

New Zealand took a leading role in those reforms, in terms of coordinating the Reams, at the request of the Palace. If a change is proposed to remove Mr Mountbatten Windsor from the line of succession, I anticipate that the UK would take the lead this time.

This is all just for your information at the moment, but always happy to discuss.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a)

Email: [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** [DPMC Media \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#); [DPMC Media \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Cherie Blithe \[DPMC\]](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#); [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** Monday, 23 February 2026 9:45:34 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Great, thanks Rachel. I can let MFAT know it will go to PMO

-Blair

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 February 2026 9:27 am  
**To:** DPMC Media [DPMC] <[Media@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <[Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <[Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Blair – we’ve had a bit more info over the weekend from the UK Cabinet Office, so we might have a more than no comment response – leave it with us to prepare a response for PMO.

---

**From:** DPMC Media [DPMC] <[Media@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 February 2026 9:25 am  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** DPMC Media [DPMC] <[Media@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Cherie Blithe [DPMC] <[Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Cherie.Blithe@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <[Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Rachel,

We’ve received the below from MFAT on AMB – let us know your view on DPMC taking this one, or passing to PMO (noting the appropriate response either way will be no comment)

Ngā manaakitanga  
Blair

---

**From:** MEDIA <[media@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:media@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 February 2026 8:58 am  
**To:** DPMC Media [DPMC] <[Media@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** MEDIA <[media@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:media@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Morning!

Is this one we can send your way? Or more appropriate to send to PMO?

Cheers

**Sarah Robson**

**Senior Media Adviser**

Communications Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

9(2)(a) | E [sarah.robson@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:sarah.robson@mfat.govt.nz)

UNCLASSIFIED

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**From:** Journalist 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Saturday, 21 February 2026 10:18 am

**To:** MEDIA <[media@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:media@mfat.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor

You don't often get email from Journalist 9(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I've been given this email by someone in the press office, I am a general reporter for Press Association in the UK. I'm emailing to ask for a comment on removing Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor (the former prince) from the line of succession following his arrest for misconduct in public office.

Kind regards,

Journalist 9(2)(a)



**Journalist 9(2)(a)**

*General News Reporter*

Journalist 9(2)(a)

Registered Address: PA Group Limited, 37 North Wharf Road, Paddington, London, W2 1AF

Registered in England No.4197

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**From:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Finn Stichbury](#)  
**Cc:** [PMO-Press](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#); [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: RNZ request  
**Date:** Sunday, 22 February 2026 11:04:12 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi Finn

Further to our exchange on Friday about the line of succession, I've just had an email from the UK Cabinet Office on that topic – there has been a lot of reporting on the UK government's position over the weekend.

6(a) & 6(b)(i)



Cheers

Rachel

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 February 2026 10:42 am  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** PMO-Press <[PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz)>; Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: RNZ request

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Finn

You could say that while no specific advice has been sought, yes, legislation would be required, and it would require coordination and agreement between all the Realms - as it did in 2013 when the Royal Succession Act was introduced which changed the order of succession. (That came into effect in 2015, in coordination with the UK and other Realms.)

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a)

Email: [Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 February 2026 10:27 am  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** PMO-Press <[PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:PMO-Press@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: RNZ request

Hi Rachel,

We won't be doing this but do you have a suggested approach on the line of succession thing please?

Cheers  
Finn

---

**From:** Journalist 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 February 2026 10:26 AM  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RNZ request

Hi Finn,

Journalist 9(2)(a) here at RNZ Midday Report with Guyon Espiner.

Would the Prime Minister be available for a quick interview with Guyon today, 12.15pm, 5mins max, on Mountbatten's arrest, and what the implications are for New Zealand - does NZ have to legislate as a commonwealth nation to have Mountbatten removed from the line of succession etc.

Thanks for considering,

Journalist 9(2)(a)

Journalist 9(2)(a)

[rnz.co.nz/middayreport](http://rnz.co.nz/middayreport)



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**From:** [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Caitlin Hicks \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#); [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Antarctic names - royal family related  
**Date:** Friday, 19 December 2025 2:40:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)

---

Hi Caitlin,

Thank you for directing this query our way – nicheness is our speciality! Could you please pass out thoughts below back through to the committee?

Ngā manaakitanga  
Grace



Grace Miles  
Senior Advisor – Constitutional and Honours

**Cabinet Office**

9(2)(a)

#### Advice for committee

Proposals to use the name of member of the Royal Family require approval from the Palace. The Cabinet Office manages this process and the best point of contact is Grace Miles ([grace.miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:grace.miles@dpmc.govt.nz)) in the constitutional team. Out of scope

Out of scope

Swapping a different Royal in for the plateau would not be consistent with the surrounding names of immediate family members, and may not meet with approval for that reason. If the committee wishes to make the change because Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor no longer holds the 'Prince' title, we wonder if they would consider other options, including another name entirely, or reverting to the plateau being unnamed. 9(2)(g)(i)

We're happy to provide further advice or information as required, including once the Committee has discussed the proposal.

---

**From:** Caitlin Hicks [DPMC] <[Caitlin.Hicks@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Caitlin.Hicks@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 December 2025 10:19 am  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] <[David.Williams@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:David.Williams@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Antarctic names - royal family related [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hey David,

In true end-of-year spirit, MFAT are getting all their weird and wacky questions off their desks. I think the one below might be a Cab Office specialty? Please do let me know if your team upstairs have views on how to take this forward (I'm stumped...).

Thanks heaps in advance,

Merry Christmas!  
Caitlin

9(2)(a)

---

**From:** WILLANS, Tara (CAE) <[Tara.Willans@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Tara.Willans@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 9:23:43 AM  
**To:** Caitlin Hicks [DPMC] <[Caitlin.Hicks@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Caitlin.Hicks@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Antarctic names - royal family related [SEC=IN CONFIDENCE]

[IN CONFIDENCE]

IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Caitlin,

I am getting in touch on behalf of the Secretariat for the Antarctic Naming Committee, which MFAT is a member of, with quite a niche enquiry.

There are two place names that have come to the attention of the Antarctic Naming Committee as names that may require updates/changes. Both names received Royal Ascent in 1970. The two names and proposal for updates are

- Out of scope
- Prince Andrew Plateau: proposal to alter to either 9(2)(g)(i)

Further details are outlined in the below email.

The Secretariat would like to confirm what the appropriate process for updating/changing these names would be. For example, should the Antarctic Naming Committee consider the proposals and confirm their views on whether changes should be made and then consult

the changes with the King/seek Royal Assent for the changes, or should MFAT consult with the King before the Antarctic Naming Committee considers any changes?

The Antarctic Naming Committee is next meeting on 27 January. Any response ahead of that meeting would be greatly appreciated. (I will be on leave until 12 January).

Please feel free to share this email with your colleagues as necessary!

Thanks,  
Tara

**Tara Willans** ([she/her](#))

**Policy Officer**

Antarctica and Environment Unit  
Climate, Antarctica, and Environment Division  
Te Taukaea | Multilateral and Legal Affairs Group  
Manatū Aorere | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

E [tara.willans@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:tara.willans@mfat.govt.nz) 9(2)(a)

For anything urgent please call me on 9(2)(a)

IN-CONFIDENCE

---

**From:** Chris Stephens <[cstephens@linz.govt.nz](mailto:cstephens@linz.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 December 2025 1:27 pm  
**To:** WILLANS, Tara (CAE) <[Tara.Willans@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Tara.Willans@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Two more Antarctic proposals - royal family related

IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Tara

Yesterday we received another two Antarctic proposals.

**Out of scope**

The second is to alter Prince Andrew Plateau to either 9(2)(g)(i)

**Out of scope**

But potentially doing something with the second name has been on my mind given the circumstances and now someone has come in proactively about it.

To do anything about either proposal at all there's a bit of a chicken and egg situation as there are old protocols regarding Royal Assent for these names. Ie, do we put the proposals to the ANC and if the ANC

wishes to proceed with one or both, then through MFAT consult with the King? Or do we do that in the first instance?

This email is an early heads up as we got the proposals yesterday. But since the ANC hui will be happening in Jan 2026 I will need to get onto these proposals as well shortly. So if you could start thinking about this situation as well and rope in whomever might be relevant.

All the names for the Royal family went through a process of (eventually) receiving formal Royal Assent from Queen Elizabeth II through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see attachments). Let me know if you receive the attachments.

The Board initially sought Royal Assent in 1964/65 as the 1:250k topographic NZMS 166 SU56-60 15&16 was ready for publication, but was advised otherwise by External Affairs. After Australia (through ANCA – Antarctic Naming Committee of Australia) raised the issue again in 1970, MFA decided that Royal Assent was needed.

I don't think we have an actual copy of the Royal Assent or the direct communication, whatever that looks like. Perhaps MFAT has it.

Name	Named	Approved by Board	Royal Assent	Note
<a href="#">Queen Elizabeth Range</a>	By Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1956-58	1959-07-24	1970-12-09	
<a href="#">Prince Andrew Plateau</a>	By NZ Geological and Survey Expedition 1961-62	1962-06-28		
<a href="#">Prince Edward Glacier</a>	By NZ Antarctic Place Names Committee	1964-07-16		Born during the drafting of the map sheet with all the royal names on it. Name approved under urgency by the APNC and added to the map which was already at the printers.
<a href="#">Prince of Wales Glacier</a>	By NZ Geological and Survey Expedition 1961-62	1962-06-28		
<a href="#">Prince Philip Glacier</a>	By NZ Geological and Survey Expedition 1961-62	1962-06-28		
<a href="#">Princess Anne Glacier</a>	By NZ Geological and Survey Expedition 1961-62	1962-06-28		

For your interest, the Board had the National Publicity Studios once do some photography – here's Arthur Evans (left) (APNC Chair), Board/APNC member John Pascoe (centre) and Surveyor-General Robert Gough (right) examining a map of Queen Elizabeth Range, Antarctica. The Queen's portrait looks on.  
[https://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-08/C0020\\_NZGB\\_SG\\_Pascoe.jpg](https://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-08/C0020_NZGB_SG_Pascoe.jpg)

Ngā mihi

## Christopher Stephens

Mātanga Ture Kiritaki / Customer Regulatory Specialist

Secretariat, Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

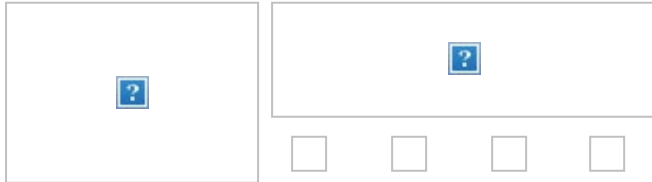
Office of the Surveyor-General

[cstephens@linz.govt.nz](mailto:cstephens@linz.govt.nz) | DDI 9(2)(a)

Wellington Office, Level 7, 155 The Terrace

PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

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**From:** [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: forfeiture  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 December 2025 5:12:13 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

FYI, Rachel was happy and I've sent it to Finn and Cam. Can you check in with me on Friday morning to see if they have responded? Thanks

---

**From:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 December 2025 2:42 pm  
**To:** ^Parliament: Cameron Burrows <Cameron.burrows@parliament.govt.nz>; Finn Stichbury <finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: forfeiture

Kia ora anō Cam and Finn

Further to Rachel's email below, we propose to reply to the member of the public who enquired about Mr Mountbatten-Windsor's NZ honours as below. Can you please let us know by Thursday if you have any concerns?

#### **Original request**

*With King Charles III's recent decision to strip Prince Andrew of all honours and titles, will New Zealand follow suit by revoking any New Zealand-granted titles and honours — particularly the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal (Sesquicentennial Medal), which he continues to wear on formal occasions?*

*By displaying New Zealand's award, Prince Andrew maintains an apparent association with this country's recognition of his contribution to New Zealand's betterment. Given the timing of that award bestowal and his conduct during that period (1990–2000), it would seem appropriate for the New Zealand Government to reaffirm its condemnation of all forms of abuse by ordering the return of this honour.*

#### **Proposed response**

*Thank you for your email of 31 October 2025 regarding the New Zealand Royal honours held by Mr Mountbatten-Windsor.*

*Following Mr Mountbatten-Windsor's public statement that he no longer intends to use the honours that had been conferred on him, the award to him of the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal was cancelled.*

Ngā mihi  
Nicola

administrative

**From:** [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: forfeiture  
**Date:** Wednesday, 10 December 2025 9:55:37 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**From:** Cameron Burrows <Cameron.Burrows@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 December 2025 6:27 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>; Finn Stichbury <Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: forfeiture

OK fab thank you – appreciate that.

C

Cameron Burrows  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Rt Hon Chris Luxon

9(2)(a)

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 December 2025 2:37 pm  
**To:** Cameron Burrows <[Cameron.Burrows@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Cameron.Burrows@parliament.govt.nz)>; Finn Stichbury <[Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Finn.Stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** forfeiture

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Cam and Finn

We've had advice from the Palace that the King has now approved the cancellation of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's award of the 1990 Commemoration Medal. I will write to Mr Mountbatten-Windsor to let him know, and we will take his name off the Register of the Medal.

There is no requirement to Gazette the cancellation. However we have had correspondence from a member of the public asking if cancellation was being considered, which we held off replying to while this was being actioned. We now propose to reply to say that following Mr Mountbatten-Windsor's public statement that he no longer intended to use the honours that had been conferred on him, the award of the 1990 Medal was cancelled. That response may lead to the fact of the cancellation becoming public. We

would let the Palace know before sending that reply.

Happy to share the draft response with you,

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
Email: [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS**

**Memo**

14 November 2025

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**To** Prime Minister

**From** Rachel Hayward

**Subject** **Honours matter**

**Deadline** 19 November 2025

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**Purpose**

- 1 This note sets out the process for the cancellation of the award of the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal held by Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, and asks you to sign formal advice to the King.

**Honours held**

- 2 On 9 February 1990, the government awarded the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal (the 1990 Medal) to Mr Mountbatten-Windsor (then HRH The Prince Andrew, Duke of York) along with other members of the Royal Family.
- 3 On 17 October 2025 Mr Mountbatten-Windsor made a public statement of his intention to no longer use his Royal title or the honours which had been conferred upon him. In late October the King cancelled Mr Mountbatten-Windsor's Royal titles and some of his senior United Kingdom honours.
- 4 You consider that New Zealand's honours position should be consistent with that of the United Kingdom, and we proposed that the 17 October 2025 statement should be treated as also applying to the 1990 Medal. 9(2)(f)(i)

**Next steps**

- 5 I will write to Mr Mountbatten-Windsor to inform him that, following his statement and consistent with the approach taken in the United Kingdom, you are recommending to the King that the award of the 1990 Medal be cancelled and annulled.
- 6 Once you have signed the attached advice sheet and covering letter, we will forward the documents to the Palace for the King's approval.



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**From:** [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Angus Stewart \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Succession article  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 November 2025 11:26:00 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 November 2025 2:46 pm  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <[finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Grace Miles [DPMC] <[Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Succession article

Hi Finn

You understand the PM will be asked if he has taken any advice on Andrew and the line of succession. He could say any change in the line of succession would be a matter for the UK with the agreement of all the Realms – New Zealand would have a part to play, but he hasn't sought advice on that.

Let me know if you need anything more,

Rachel

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 October 2025 4:56 pm  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <[finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** ^Parliament: Cameron Burrows <[Cameron.burrows@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Cameron.burrows@parliament.govt.nz)>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <[Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Succession article

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Finn

Another angle of the Prince Andrew story has popped up: [How New Zealand could take action following Andrew's loss of royal titles - monarchy expert Cindy McCreery - NZ Herald](#)

If the PM is asked about succession, I recommend he says that it's a matter on which he would need to take advice, but not that it's a question for the Palace – succession is a matter that the NZ Parliament can and has legislated on, in coordination with the UK and other Realms, most recently in 2013, when the Royal Succession Act was introduced which changed the order of succession. (It came into effect in 2015, in coordination with the UK and other Realms.)

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you get any queries over the weekend.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

**9(2)(a)**  
Email: [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** PM  
**To:** [^Parliament: Cameron Burrows](#); [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Cc:** [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NZ Honour - 1990 Medal  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 November 2025 10:33:10 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Yes - please progress option 3. Given UK honours have been cancelled - NZ ones should be too.

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**From:** Cameron Burrows <Cameron.Burrows@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 November 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward <Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz>; Prime Minister 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: NZ Honour - 1990 Medal

Thanks Rachel – your suggested approach (option three) seems sensible.

Cam

Cameron Burrows  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Rt Hon Chris Luxon

021937401

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**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] <[Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 November 2025 9:14 AM  
**To:** Prime Minister 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Cameron Burrows <[Cameron.Burrows@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Cameron.Burrows@parliament.govt.nz)>; Nicola Purvis [DPMC] <[Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicola.Purvis@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** NZ Honour - 1990 Medal

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora PM

We spoke briefly on Monday about the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal held by Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, which is part of the New Zealand Royal Honours system. As you know, the medal was instituted by the New Zealand Government to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, and was awarded to more than 3,500 New Zealanders, and to 10 members of the Royal Family. The former Prince wears it on his medal bar.

The King can cancel the award of this medal to members of the Royal Family on the advice of the Prime Minister. The usual threshold for forfeiture applies - the Prime Minister may consider advising the King to cancel the award where an individual's actions are such that, if they continue to hold that honour, the honours system would be brought into disrepute. As you are aware, cases of forfeiture in New Zealand to date have almost always related to

a criminal conviction.

There are several options in relation to the former Prince's 1990 Medal:

9(2)(g)(i)

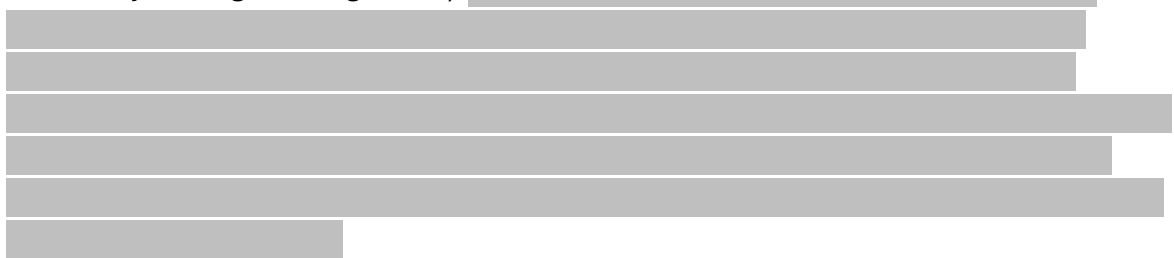


- The third option, and the one I recommend you consider here, is that we approach the Palace proposing to treat the statement made by the former Prince on 17 October as an indication from him of his intention to relinquish the award. The relevant part of that statement said:

*In discussion with The King, and my immediate and wider family, we have concluded the continued accusations about me distract from the work of His Majesty and the Royal Family. I have decided, as I always have, to put my duty to my family and country first. I stand by my decision five years ago to stand back from public life.*

*With His Majesty's agreement, we feel I must now go a step further. I will therefore no longer use my title or the honours which have been conferred upon me. As I have said previously, I vigorously deny the accusations against me.*

That statement was not sufficient to quell the public concern in the UK, and the King responded last week by moving to cancel the titles and UK honours (rather than his voluntarily no longer "using" them). 9(2)(f)(iv) & 9(2)(g)(i)



9(2)(f)(iv) & 9(2)(g)(i)

Happy to discuss further.

In the meantime, if you are asked about the NZ honour, I recommend you say are seeking advice.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a)

Email: [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Finn Stichbury](#)  
**Cc:** [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** honours question  
**Date:** Monday, 3 November 2025 4:30:02 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Finn

At his post-Cabinet Press conference the PM was asked whether Prince Andrew held any New Zealand honours – he said not as far as he was aware.

As we discussed last week, the former Prince Andrew holds the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal, which is part of the New Zealand Royal Honours system. The medal was instituted by the New Zealand Government to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, and was awarded to more than 3,500 New Zealanders, and to members of the Royal Family.

We had suggested that if asked about whether he would consider recommending forfeiture of this award, the PM would say he will seek advice. We've had one query from a member of the public so far as to whether the PM will consider cancelling the award of that honour – we'll provide advice to the PM later in the week.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel



**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
Email: [Rachel.hayward@dPMC.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dPMC.govt.nz)

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**From:** [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [Finn Stichbury](#)  
**Cc:** [Grace Miles \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Succession article  
**Date:** Monday, 3 November 2025 2:46:10 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hi Finn

You understand the PM will be asked if he has taken any advice on Andrew and the line of succession. He could say any change in the line of succession would be a matter for the UK with the agreement of all the Realms – New Zealand would have a part to play, but he hasn't sought advice on that.

Let me know if you need anything more,

Rachel

---

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**Sent:** Friday, 31 October 2025 4:56 pm  
**To:** Finn Stichbury <finn.stichbury@parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** ^Parliament: Cameron Burrows <Cameron.burrows@parliament.govt.nz>; Grace Miles [DPMC] <Grace.Miles@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Succession article

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Finn

Another angle of the Prince Andrew story has popped up: [How New Zealand could take action following Andrew's loss of royal titles - monarchy expert Cindy McCreery - NZ Herald](#)

If the PM is asked about succession, I recommend he says that it's a matter on which he would need to take advice, but not that it's a question for the Palace – succession is a matter that the NZ Parliament can and has legislated on, in coordination with the UK and other Realms, most recently in 2013, when the Royal Succession Act was introduced which changed the order of succession. (It came into effect in 2015, in coordination with the UK and other Realms.)

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you get any queries over the weekend.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Nāku, nā Rachel

**Rachel Hayward (she/her)**  
**Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand



9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
Email: [Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.hayward@dpmc.govt.nz)

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**From:** [Honours \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** [David Williams \[DPMC\]](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DPMC Contact us - your submission details  
**Date:** Friday, 31 October 2025 10:22:22 am

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[IN-CONFIDENCE]

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**From:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) <noreply@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 October 2025 10:19 am  
**To:** Honours [DPMC] <Honours@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** DPMC Contact us - your submission details

Submitted on Fri 31 Oct 2025 10:19am

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Your name**

9(2)(a)

**Your phone**

9(2)(a)

**Your email**

9(2)(a)

**Business unit**

Honours Unit

**Comments**

Hi

With King Charles III's recent decision to strip Prince Andrew of all honours and titles, will New Zealand follow suit by revoking any New Zealand-granted titles and honours — particularly the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal (Sesquicentennial Medal), which he continues to wear on formal occasions?

By displaying New Zealand's award, Prince Andrew maintains an apparent association with this country's recognition of his contribution to New Zealand's betterment. Given the timing of that award bestowal and his conduct during that period (1990–2000), it would seem appropriate for the New Zealand Government to reaffirm its condemnation of all forms of abuse by ordering the return of this honour.

Kind regards,

9(2)(a)

**User agent**

Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)

Chrome/141.0.0.0 Safari/537.36

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