EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

20 August 2026

[redacted]

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0116

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Official Information Act request: Honours nominations

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 10 August 2026. You requested:

> *[1] Pursuant to the OIA, can you write advising in a letter; the date Ruth Money received MNZN honours, for what reason; and whom were her nominations; please?*
> *[2] Can you please include a sample nomination form, or a prose description of the nomination requirements if there is no form please?*
> *[3] If it is at all possible; can a copy of the substantiation of grounds for nomination (eg nomination application forms or documents that explains the evidenced reasons for awarding honours) for Ms Money, please?*
> *[4] Finally can the state honours be awarded proprio motu (self initiated under own momentum) by the exec / PM; and is that the situation being for the above noted award recipient, please?*

Response to your request

Ms Ruth Suzanne Murray was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to victim advocacy as part of the New Year Honours list 2020, announced 31 December 2019. A copy of the citation, which sets out the basis on which the appointment was made, and a New Zealand Royal Honours nomination form are attached.

The formal responsibility for making recommendations to The King for the grant of honours rests with the Prime Minister of the day. Twice a year the Prime Minister, with the assistance of the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH), considers nominations from which a shortlist is made for submission to The King. Anyone, including the Prime Minister and Ministers, can nominate a person they think is worthy of a New Zealand Royal Honour and anyone can be nominated. However, a person cannot nominate themselves.

The Honours Unit holds the nomination information requested; however, I am withholding this information under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons; and

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua
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- section 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

Protecting the confidentiality of material about Honours nominations and appointments is essential to maintaining the integrity of the New Zealand Royal Honours system. Those engaging with the honours system make nominations with an expectation of privacy and confidentiality. The nominations guidelines on the DPMC website state that *all nominations for honours are treated in the strictest confidence. No information regarding the nominee or the details of the nomination is divulged.* Protection of such information ensures that those engaging with the Honours system can rely on the confidentiality of the process and can continue to supply information knowing their privacy will be protected. The long-standing practice of confidentiality in relation to the various processes of the Honours system also ensures the system is free as possible from litigiousness, recrimination and inappropriate comparison.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the withholding of the information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. In my view it is not. While transparency and accountability weigh in favour of disclosure, the need to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the Honours system outweighs the interest in disclosure.

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

CABINET OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND
Telephone: +64 (4) 830 5010. Email: CabinetOffice@dpmc.govt.nz
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New Year Honours 2020 - Citation for Ms Ruth Suzanne Money

MONEY, Ms Ruth Suzanne
For services to victim advocacy

Ms Ruth Money has been a victim advocate since 2012, initially with the Sensible Sentencing Trust (SST) as a volunteer, and as an independent advocate since 2014.

Ms Money has focused on helping survivors of serious crime understand the legal process from a survivor's perspective, in particular education around name suppression, and ensuring the Justice System does not re-victimise or add more distress to already traumatized persons or families. She spends up to 60 hours of her own time every week giving a voice to victims of crime and assisting victims through various Justice System processes. She has worked on a number of high-profile cases including the killings of Christie Marceau and Blessie Gotingco. While with the SST she was appointed the Chairperson of the Christie's Law Bail Amendment Campaign, and was appointed National Spokesperson and deputy to the Trust's founder. She co-manages a training service that teaches parents, teachers, and sector staff about the grooming characteristics of Child Sex Abusers and how to identify and avoid the risk they pose. Ms Money was appointed to the Safe and Effective Justice Programme Advisory Group in 2018 to work alongside Justice Sector agencies on a prudent and realistic scope for effective criminal justice reform.

New Zealand Royal Honour
nomination form

Use this form to nominate someone for a New Zealand Royal Honour. Before you start, read the nomination guidelines on the DPMC website.

1. Tell us about the person you're nominating

Provide as much information as you can. If you don't know an answer, write unknown.

Nominee's personal details

Title (for example, Dr, Mr, Ms, Mx)	
Full legal name	
Preferred name	
Date of birth	
Gender (optional)	
Ethnicity (optional)	

Nominee's contact details

Phone number:	
Email address:	
Postal address:	

Does the nominee already have any Royal Honours or Crown appointments?

Royal honour:	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know
Crown appointment (such as JP, KC):	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know
Details:	

2. Tell us why you are nominating this person

Describe why you believe this person deserves a Royal Honour, Focus on their achievements, contribution and impact.

Nominee’s service and achievements:

Their contribution at community, regional, national or international level:

How the nominee’s service and achievements stand out above and beyond their peers or goes beyond what’s reasonably expected in their paid employment:

How others view the nominee’s service and achievements, and whether these have been recognised through other awards or honours:

Positions held by the nominee:

Please list the main positions or offices held by the nominee, and the period of service.

Organisation	Position	From (date)	To (date)	Paid / voluntary?

3. Give us supporting information

Attach at least two letters from other people who know the nominee's service and achievements. These letters should explain why the nominee deserves a New Zealand Royal Honour and provide extra detail to support your nomination.

People or organisations who are supporting this nomination:

	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached
	☐ Letter attached

4. Tell us about yourself as the nominator

Your personal details

Full name:	
Title (such as Dr, Mr, Ms, Mx):	
Your Royal Honours (if any):	
Relationship to the nominee:	

Your contact details

Phone number:	
Email address:	
Postal address:	

5. Confirm the information and sign the form

Before you sign, read how we protect your information and how we may use AI to help process nominations at dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/privacy-statement

☐ I have completed this form

☐ I have attached letters of support

☐ I acknowledge that I have read and understood the privacy and AI use statement for the New Zealand Royal Honours System

Signature:

Date:

6. Send your completed form to the Honours Unit

If you have questions, or need help with this form, contact the Honours Unit.

The Honours Unit

Phone: (04) 830 5011

Email: honours@dpmc.govt.nz

Web: dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours

Postal: Cabinet Office, Parliament Buildings, PO Box 55, Wellington 6140