

4 May 2021

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Tēnā koe Mya

I refer to your email of 1 April 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). We have responded below to both parts of your request:

"1. Is a New Zealand consul residing abroad required to abide by New Zealand law, even if such a person is an honorary consul?"

New Zealand Honorary Consuls are subject to the local laws within the jurisdictions in which they reside, as in most cases they are nationals or residents of that country.

2. How do you lodge a complaint under New Zealand law against an honorary consul?"

The complainant should make a written complaint to the New Zealand overseas mission that has supervisory responsibility for the Honorary Consul. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's head office in Wellington can advise on the supervising mission if required. Here is the link to contact us: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/>

Matters relating to the performance or behaviour of an Honorary Consul can be raised with us but legal or criminal matters should be taken up with the relevant local jurisdiction.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade