



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

17 February 2022

Luke
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Ref: OIA-2021/22-0863

Tēnā koe Luke

Official Information Act request: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 19 January 2022. You requested:

- “1. Does New Zealand plan to issue The Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal should Her Majesty be reigning on the 6th of February?”*
- 2. If New Zealand is not issuing a Platinum Jubilee medal, please explain why not.*
- 3. Will NZDF and Emergency Services personnel be provided with a medal (Jubilee or otherwise), in recognition of their significant contributions to New Zealand on the 6th of February?”*
- 4. In the absence of a medal, will New Zealand do anything else to recognise the contributions that Emergency Services and NZDF personnel have made on the 6th of February?”*
- 5. Please release the advice provided to the Prime Minister by the Cabinet Office, regarding the issuance of a Platinum Jubilee medal. If this request is to be refused, please also explain why it should be refused with regard to the fairly significant public interest.*
- 6. What preparations have the Government made in preparation for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee?”*

On 6 February 2022, the Prime Minister paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II in her Platinum Jubilee year and also unveiled a Platinum Jubilee Emblem for New Zealand, which has been designed by the New Zealand Herald of Arms, Phillip O'Shea, CNZM, CVO. You can find the emblem at <https://gg.govt.nz/office-governor-general/queens-platinum-jubilee/queens-platinum-jubilee-emblem-new-zealand>.

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In terms of other preparations:

- The Prime Minister noted on 6 February that The Queen has encouraged anyone who would like to mark the Platinum Jubilee to do so by planting trees, and announced that the government will make a donation of \$1 million to Trees that Count to assist with tree planting programmes;
- A 21-gun salute was fired from Point Jerningham, Wellington on Monday 7 February to mark the anniversary of The Queen's Accession;
- Wellington will participate in The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons, when beacons will be lit across the Commonwealth in early June.

The Prime Minister's statement is available on the Beehive website:

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pm-pays-tribute-queen-elizabeth-ii-her-platinum-jubilee-year>.

There are several pages on the Government House website dedicated to the Platinum Jubilee, at <https://gg.govt.nz/office-governor-general/queens-platinum-jubilee>.

Planning for some other events is still in progress. Further details and information about events across New Zealand will be announced as the year progresses.

A Jubilee medal is not part of the planning for the events this year.

As Clerk of the Executive Council, I advised the Prime Minister that New Zealand has not previously issued its own, separate medal to commemorate a Sovereign's jubilee or coronation. I recommended that a medal not be issued for the Platinum Jubilee, principally for reasons of cost and difficulty in administering the medal. Final decisions on the New Zealand Royal Honours system rest with the Prime Minister.

There was no general issue of a medal on 6 February 2022. New Zealand's Royal Honours system provides a wide range of options for recognising the service and contribution of deserving New Zealanders, including members of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). In addition to recognition provided through the regular honours system, the NZDF has a comprehensive framework for medallic recognition.

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

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Nāku noa, nā



Michael Webster
Clerk of the Executive Council