



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Memo

9 May 2022

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**To** Prime Minister

**From** Rachel Hayward

**Subject** Australian honour for Chief of Defence Force

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## Purpose

- 1 This note seeks your agreement to approve the acceptance and wear by Air Marshall Kevin Short, Chief of Defence Force of an honorary appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia Military Division.

## Deadline

- 2 We would like your decision on this proposal by **Tuesday 10 May** if possible.

## Background

- 2 Air Marshall Kevin Short, Chief of Defence Force (CDF) will be visiting Canberra, Australia from 11 to 12 May 2022 to undertake bilateral defence discussions with the retiring Australian Chief of Defence Force, General Angus Campbell. In conjunction with this visit the Australian government has approved his honorary appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) Military Division.
- 3 The appointment is to recognise his distinguished service in fostering the military relationship between Australia and New Zealand through exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, strategic foresight and uncompromising professionalism. s6(b)(1)
- 4 This is the first time this Australian honour has been proposed for award to a CDF by Australia. However former CDFs have received honours at an equivalent level from Singapore (in 2006 and 2011), the United States (2017), and Malaysia (2019).

## Foreign honours for persons “in the service of the Crown”

- 5 The ‘Rules Relating to the Acceptance and Wearing of Commonwealth, Foreign and International Honours by New Zealand Citizens’ provide delegated authority to the Prime Minister to approve the acceptance and wearing of a Commonwealth honour by a New Zealand citizen. The approval is entirely at the Prime Minister’s discretion and, in the past, requests have been both approved and declined.

- 6 The Rules generally preclude persons “in the service of the Crown” from accepting and wearing foreign honours, although an exception may be made where it is “in the best interests of New Zealand” for the honours to be accepted.

s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)



## Recommendations

14 I recommend that you:

- 14.1 **note** the request from the Australian government for Air Marshall Kevin Short, Chief of Defence Force to accept and wear the Honorary appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australian Military Division, in recognition of his distinguished service in fostering the military relationship between Australia and New Zealand through exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment, strategic foresight and uncompromising professionalism;

14.2 **note** that while New Zealanders “in the service of the Crown” are precluded from accepting and wearing foreign honours, an exception may be made if it is considered to be in the best interests of New Zealand;

14.3 **agree** that it is in the best interests of New Zealand for Air Marshall Kevin Short, Chief of Defence Force to accept the proposed honour, on the conditions set out below;

**AGREED / NOT AGREED / DISCUSS**

14.4 **agree** to the acceptance and wearing of the Honorary appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australian Military Division by Air Marshall Kevin Short, Chief of Defence Force, on the condition that it may not be worn until the conclusion of his term as Chief of Defence Force.

**AGREED / NOT AGREED / DISCUSS**

s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

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

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Prime Minister

Date: 21 / 5 / 2022

**Distribution:**  
Raj Nahna, Chief of Staff



RT HON CHRISTOPHER LUXON  
PRIME MINISTER

04 APR 2024

Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO  
Governor-General  
Government House  
**WELLINGTON**

Your Excellency

The government of the United States of America wishes to confer the following honour on the following New Zealand citizen:

*Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander)*

Air Marshall Kevin Roland Short, Chief of Defence Force

I recommend that you grant approval, under delegated authority from the King, for this New Zealander to accept and wear their proposed honour.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
**Prime Minister**

Approved

Governor-General

Date: 5 / 4 / 2024