

Staff recollections

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- I recall speaking to the staff member who was liaising with [redacted] to make arrangements for him to speak as part of the E Oho! Waitangi series. My recollection of the discussion is that it was at the end of the day. I can't be sure what day it was, sometime between Monday 25 November and Wednesday 11 December. We discussed the website listing for the E Oho series event being planned for 12 February. I can't recall the exact conversation but I know that it included the following points – that it looked like good programming; I thanked them for their work on the series; that the event details as provided in the form that had been provided to me for my review were a bit tricky to work with for the purpose of publicising the event; We discussed the audience for the E Oho series, which is a general audience, the heightened interest in the Treaty and that public dialogue about the Treaty was politically charged; I conveyed my expectation that we should be working to achieve 1000 participants in the webinar as we had for the previous E Oho event; I congratulated the staff member for achieving that target; We discussed the reach afforded by the webinar format, and how this supported our objective to make the National Library's public programming accessible and widely available; We discussed the quote that had been provided by [redacted]; I expressed my reservation about its suitability for promoting the event, and that it needed the context of the full blurb provided by [redacted] to convey the idea which made it very long, too long for our event listing format; I can't remember my exact words but I conveyed that the paragraph with the quote didn't give readers information about what they might expect should they join the webinar or join in person; I recall saying something like at worst if this is the only thing that people read about the event and without knowledge of the history of the events leading up to the Treaty our audience might infer from the quote that Britain acquired New Zealand by conquest and that that would be factually incorrect; I asked the staff member to get back to [redacted] about the quote. I don't recall their exact response, but I do remember a follow up discussion about what was being edited and making it clear that it was the event listing and that I had no knowledge of the content of the lecture and neither did I need to, I recall distinctly discussing that I had met [redacted] at a launch of one of his books that we had hosted earlier in the year at the National Library and that as an author who had published a number of books I felt sure that he would have prior experience of having publicity material edited by publishers and would be open to working up a description that better met the needs for publicising his talk to the widest public.