



7 March 2025

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John Luke

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Tēnā koe John

OIA request 24/25 0746 Request for Honorifics in travel documents

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 7 February 2025.

You requested –

- 1. Please provide any notes, regulations, guidelines, policies or other document used to determine what personal titles, honorifics, ranks or designations are or are not deemed acceptable/appropriate for inclusion in NZ travel documents.*
- 2. I am particular interest in how you handling the customary pacific island title, e.g. Winston Peters given chiefly Samoan title https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/peters-given-chiefly-samoan-title/FZL7TYT2W4W6C5JFROY72CTEA/#google_vignette*

In response to your request, I can provide you with the following information.

Question one

I refer you to *Appendix A – Names to be displayed in a passport policy for New Zealand Passports*, which is policy and guidance document from Tuwhiria Te Tikanga (Tuwhiria). Tuwhiria is the Department's online operational policy resource and knowledge management system. The main purpose for this system is to have standardised business knowledge across service delivery and operations, which enables staff to find the correct information quickly and ensure consistent application of the most up to date accurate policies and procedures by all staff.

Question two

I can advise that Pacific Island customary titles are not recognised for passport purposes in New Zealand with the exception that in some countries, a title is recorded as part of a person's name. If that person is granted New Zealand citizenship and the title appears on their citizenship certificate, it can be regarded as a forename for passport purposes and be left in its original form.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'T' followed by a horizontal line.

Julia Taylor
Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence
Service Delivery and Operations