



16 April 2026

Matthew Tetley
fyi-request-34181-9717a060@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO OIA 757-2025-26

Dear Matthew,

Official Information Act request: Prime Minister's Matai title

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 24 March 2026. You requested:

"I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding the initial Christopher Luxon Matai claim as reported in the media this week.

Timeline of Events:

[1] Please provide a detailed timeline of events related to the Prime Minister's Matai claim, including all significant dates and actions taken by relevant agencies.

Involved Agencies:

[2] Specifically, I request information about the roles and communications of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), and the High Commissioner to Samoa concerning the initial Matai claim.

Documentation:

[3] Any documents, reports, minutes from meetings, or correspondence that relate to the claim across the mentioned agencies.

Decision-Making Process:

[4] Information regarding the decision-making processes by DPMC, MFAT, and the High Commissioner to Samoa concerning this claim, including any policies or guidelines that were followed."

For ease of reference, I have numbered your request.

On 30 March 2026 you were advised that parts [2], [3] and [4] of your request were transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and they will respond to you directly with any information they may hold.

Your request as asked has been interpreted as relating to the media articles that the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon "asked" for the bestowal of the matai title. I can confirm that this office has not identified any information or documentation relevant to this interpretation. This is because while the bestowal of an honorary title is a great honour for New Zealand, the Prime Minister did not ask, and nor did his representatives ask, for a matai title to be bestowed during his visit to Apia.

You may be interested in the following information relating to the bestowal of the matai title on the Prime Minister. Written Parliamentary Question 8701 (2026) was published on the Parliament website at the following link: [8701 \(2026\). Hon Carmel Sepuloni to the Prime Minister.](#)

The Prime Minister is the responsible minister for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Working with MFAT and its Post network, DPMC supports the development of the Prime Minister's offshore engagements, including programming, logistics and briefing. DPMC communicates with MFAT and with the Prime Minister's Office in organising offshore engagements.

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

Yours sincerely,



Cameron Burrows
Chief of Staff