

31. Honours and Awards

31.1 Rules for conferring honours on NZ citizens

If a foreign government is considering conferring an honour on a New Zealand citizen, prior approval must be sought from the New Zealand Government. The government of the country proposing to confer the honour must submit a Third Person Note to Protocol Division for onpassing to the Honours Secretariat seeking the approval of the New Zealand Government. The Third Person Note must contain the following information:

- full name(s) and address(es) of recipient(s);
- name of the proposed honour (and level); and
- precise reasons for the proposed honour.

Each request will be considered on a case by case basis. The fact that a similar application has been approved in the past should not be taken as implying that permission will be granted in a subsequent case. The Honours Unit will issue a “notification” for each approval granted by the Governor-General and Prime Minister, and this notification will be passed via Third Person Note to the requesting country by Protocol Division of MFAT.

Approval must be obtained before the conferring of an award may be announced.

Officials in the public service of the Crown are usually not able to accept foreign awards. Foreign missions should contact Protocol Division as soon as possible for advice. Email: Protocol@mfat.govt.nz

