

**MUSEUM OF NEW  
ZEALAND  
TE PAPA  
TONGAREWA**

Cable St  
PO Box 467  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Telephone  
64-4-381 7249  
[www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)



5 April 2024

Tēnā koe,

**Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – Queen Victoria's Royal Charter Letters/Patent**

I am writing in response to your email dated 22 March 2024 in which you asked:

*Does Te Papa hold a copy of Queen Victoria's Royal Charter Letters/Patent dated 16 November 1840 that separated New Zealand from the dependency of New South Wales and made New Zealand into a British Colony with a Governor and Constitution that set up New Zealand's political, legal and justice systems under one flag and one law, irrespective of race colour or creed?*

As we have advised you on previous occasions when you have asked the same question, Te Papa does not hold this document. We have also advised you to contact Archives New Zealand and have transferred your enquiries to them in the past. Archives New Zealand have further advised that the document is available online: [Charter of 1840 - Constitution of the Colony of New Zealand into a separate colony - 16 November 1840 \(natlib.govt.nz\)](http://natlib.govt.nz).

On this basis your request is refused in accordance with s18(d) of the OIA.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us please contact [OIA@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@tepapa.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FL' or similar initials.

Frances Lawrence  
**Principal Advisor Strategy, Planning and Performance**