

MUSEUM OF NEW  
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TE PAPA  
TONGAREWA

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18 March 2025

Tēnā koe

**Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – Repatriation of Human Remains from Tahiti**

I refer to your email dated 10 March 2025 requesting the following information:

- *All documentation held by your department in regard to **s 9(2)(a)** or others repatriating/importing human remains from Tahiti into New Zealand within the past three years. Please include any permits, letters, approval or provenance documents.*
- *This request is specifically in relation to an alleged repatriation/import of human remains belonging to Kupe from Tahiti to New Zealand.*

Te Papa does not hold any documentation regarding **s 9(2)(a)** or others repatriating/importing human remains from Tahiti into New Zealand within the past three years.

We are not aware of any repatriation of human remains belonging to Kupe from Tahiti to New Zealand. It is important to note that Te Papa currently repatriates human remains into New Zealand that are of Māori and Moriori origin and have direct provenance to Aotearoa New Zealand and Rēkohu Chatham Islands.

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 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 Planning and Performance**