

14 June 2022

Pirimia Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

VIA EMAIL: Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz

Cc: Nā Bernadette Cavanagh - Bernadette.Cavanagh@mch.govt.nz

Tēnā koe e te Pirimia Jacinda,

I am writing to you today to express my serious concerns about the continued behaviour of your Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the actions of your CEO Bernadette Cavanagh. These are matters I have already raised with the Ministry.

Even after the strong words of the Ombudsman calling out the deficient and unreasonable process that has tainted the Erebus Memorial, and more importantly that found it to have breached the principles of Te Tiriti, it would appear they have learned nothing.

Your Ministry has so far refused to acknowledge the breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi or provide any details of how they intend to remedy the lack of consultation with the 19 iwi that make up the mana whenua of Tāmaki Makaurau. They have refused to respond to questions regarding the process. They have purported to appoint a mediator without any consultation with the parties and have attempted to bully the complainants into a process without having all the relevant information.

Your Ministry have now breached the rāhui on site on three occasions. Today, the rāhui was breached by MCH contractors for the third time. The Ministry are aware that the rāhui is sanctioned by the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei taumata, kaumatua and kuia and that it is fully endorsed by Kīngi Tūheitia and the Kīngitanga. The actions of MCH, and by extension you, is causing serious and possibly irreparable damage to Crown and iwi relations.

The complete disrespect Manatū Taonga has displayed towards Te Ao Māori, Tikanga and in particular the rāhui, mauri and mana of Te Hā the Tupuna Rakau, is completely unacceptable. The name Manatū Taonga is not simply words on a page that you can pick and choose, it carries a certain responsibility and a deep understanding of Tikanga Māori, to be kaitiaki of our Culture and our Heritage. It indicates the behaviour and the mantle of responsibility that the Ministry must assume, or it must relinquish the title. Your Ministry is not acting in accordance with its title.

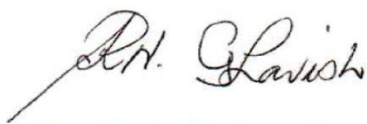
It is appropriate that I make you aware that as a direct result of your Ministry's mahi hūna and mahi kūhu, I intend to work with the Iwi Chairs Forum to remove the use of the name Manatū Tāonga from your Ministry. Unless the Ministry are prepared to reflect on past wrongs and put into place processes to ensure Tikanga Māori is adhered to at every level of decision making I will begin the process at the Iwi Chairs Forum hui in August.

By again trespassing on the whenua, adding to and reinforcing the fences today, the Ministry has made clear they have no intent to enter any form of mediation in good faith.

The presence of the camera and fences on site deeply offends the community and mana whenua right across Tamaki Makaurau and the motu, clearly shows the Crown's colonial approach to whenua and their sense of possession of it.

I ask that you immediately remove them to allow time for all parties to work through the serious grievances your Ministry has caused.

Kia ora

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. N. Glavish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Dame Rangimarie Naida Glavish DNZM, JP
Chair, Te Rūnanga a Iwi o Ngāti Whātua
Co-Chair Pou Tangata Iwi Chairs Forum
Chief Advisor-Tikanga Auckland/Waitemata DHBs