Seniority of various NZ honours

ONZ: The Order of New Zealand
The country’s highest honour, restricted to 20 living persons at any time, plus additional members and honorary members.

GNZM: Knight or Dame Grand Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit
Awarded for a pre-eminent contribution in any field over a sustained period. Services have usually brought international recognition.

KNZM or DNZM: Knight or Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit
For pre-eminent contribution in any field achieving at a national or international level, recognised by peers and demonstrating sustained commitment.

CNZM: Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit
For a prominent national or international role, leading role in regional affairs or distinguished contribution to an area of activity.

QSO: Queen’s Service Order
Recognises valuable voluntary service to the community or faithful service to the Crown or public sector. Usually awarded for service at a national level.

ONZM: Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit
For a distinguished regional or national role in any field.

MNZM: Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit
For achievement or service to the community, usually in a national role.

OSM: Queen’s Service Medal
Same as QSO but usually awarded for service at a local or regional level.

* Formerly Principal Companion (PCNZM) from 1989-2009.
** Formerly Distinguished Companion (DCNZM) from 1999-2009.
ONZ and GNZM appointments are only made periodically, when required.

Source: www.honours.govt.nz/NZHA