



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

26 February 2021

Ref: OIA-2020/21-0338

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act request: Info held by DPMC re Sir Ron Brierley from August 2019 - January 2021**

1. Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 28 January 2021. You requested:

*“...all information sent, received, created or otherwise held by DPMC, including the Appointments and Honours Committee and the Honours Unit, that mention Sir Ron Brierley, from the month of August 2019...”*

2. We have interpreted this request as not including material held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) that pre-dates August 2019 (such as his original nomination material).
3. Please find **enclosed** information relevant to your request.
4. At the time of Sir Ron Brierley’s arrest in December 2019, the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) received several queries regarding Sir Ron Brierley’s knighthood and the likelihood of forfeiture. The Honours Unit provided PMO with assistance in responding to these queries. Government House also received similar queries at this time, and these were referred to PMO.
5. We have also included an extract of routine briefings prepared by the Honours Unit for the Clerk of the Executive Council to assist with responding to questions on this matter.
6. Some information has been withheld, including drafts of emails being released, and redactions to the documents provided have been made under the following sections of the Act:
  - 6.1. section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons;
  - 6.2. section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials;
  - 6.3. section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions between officials and Ministers.

7. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Michael Webster  
**Clerk of the Executive Council**

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:31 am  
**To:** Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Just fyi – we'll put something together for PMO

**From:** Ellen Read  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:29 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] ; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Thanks Rachel [REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

**Ellen Read** | Deputy Chief Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
[SEEMAIL]

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:29 AM  
**To:** Ellen Read [REDACTED] David Williams [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Thanks Ellen, we'll come back to you shortly.

**From:** Ellen Read [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:27 AM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) ; Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Hi Rachel and David,

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks  
Ellen

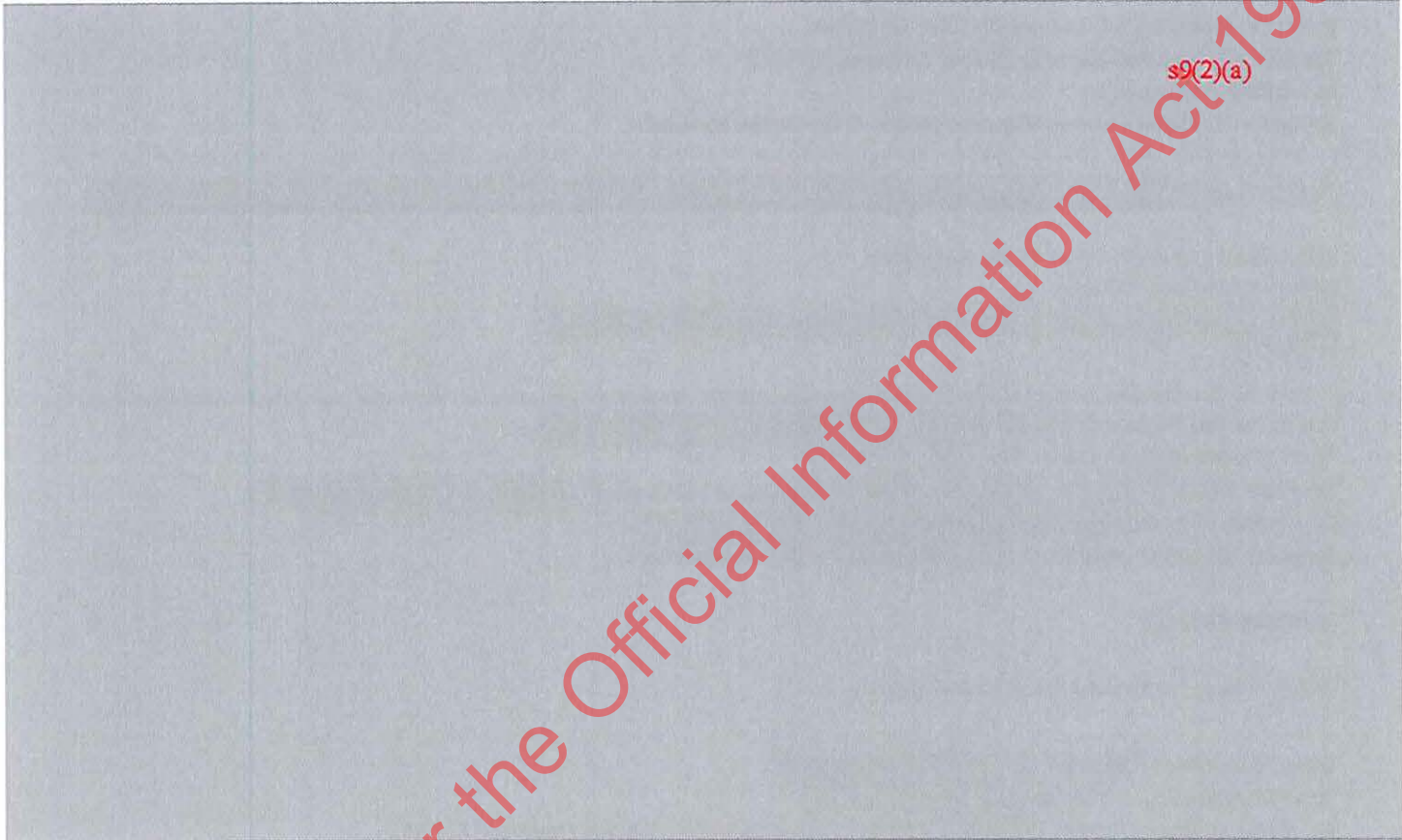
**Ellen Read** | Deputy Chief Press Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
[SEEMAIL]

From: [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:23 AM  
To: Ellen Read [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
Subject: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Ellen,

Sir Ron Brierley has been arrested for child pornography offences. Does the Prime Minister think he should be stripped of his knighthood if found guilty.



Released under the Official Information Act 1982



**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

**From:** ^Parliament: Ellen Read  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 12:52 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Minister  
[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

[SEEMAIL] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

**From:** Ellen Read  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:57 AM  
**To:** 'Rachel Hayward [DPMC]'; David Williams  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Thanks Rachel.

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
[SEEMAIL]

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:47 AM  
**To:** Ellen Read  
**Cc:** David Williams [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
Andrew Campbell [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

[IN-CONFIDENCE] Hi

Ellen,

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

We have a set of FAQs up on the DPMC website, so the basis on which forfeiture would be considered is out in public – I understand David has sent those to you already. Link here: <https://dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-system/forfeiture-honours>

In summary, the Prime Minister may consider advising the Queen to cancel the appointment of a person to an Order where an individual's actions are such that, if they continue to hold that honour, the honours system would be brought into disrepute. Examples include (but are not limited to) situations where the holder of an honour is sentenced to more than three months in prison, and:

- the offence involved disloyalty to the state; or
- the offence was committed by a civil servant and involved serious dereliction of duty; or
- the offence involved other disgraceful conduct such that public opinion would consider it wrong for the offender to hold a Royal honour.

Is that enough for current purposes? Let me know if you need anything more,

Kind regards

Rachel

**From:** Ellen Read [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:29 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [redacted] s9(2)(a); David Williams [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

[redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

[redacted] s9(2)(a)  
[SEEMAIL]

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:29 AM  
**To:** Ellen Read [redacted] s9(2)(a); David Williams [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Thanks Ellen, we'll come back to you shortly.

**From:** Ellen Read [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:27 AM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] [redacted] s9(2)(a); Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Hi Rachel and David,



s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks  
Ellen

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

s9(2)(a)

[SEEMAIL]

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:23 AM  
**To:** Ellen Read s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Ellen,

Sir Ron Brierley has been arrested for child pornography offences. Does the Prime Minister think he should be stripped of his knighthood if found guilty.

s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** ^Parliament: Ellen Read  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 1:03 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; David Williams [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Thanks for your swift help. Much appreciated.

[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i) and s9(2)(a)

[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

[Redacted] s9(2)(a)  
[SEEMAIL]

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [Redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 1:02 PM  
**To:** Ellen Read ; David Williams  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Thanks Ellen - I've asked Govt House to refer any queries they get to PMO.

I'm at Pipitea House now from 1 till 3, so phoneless, but David is around.

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Ellen Read [Redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 Dec 2019, 11:56 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [Redacted] s9(2)(a), David Williams [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Andrew Campbell [Redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Thanks Rachel.

[Redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)



**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

s9(2)(a)

[SEEMAIL]

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:47 AM

**To:** Ellen Read s9(2)(a); David Williams s9(2)(a)

**Cc:** Andrew Campbell

**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Ellen,

s9(2)(g)(i)

We have a set of FAQs up on the DPMC website, so the basis on which forfeiture would be considered is out in public – I understand David has sent those to you already. Link here: <https://dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-system/forfeiture-honours>

In summary, the Prime Minister may consider advising the Queen to cancel the appointment of a person to an Order where an individual's actions are such that, if they continue to hold that honour, the honours system would be brought into disrepute. Examples include (but are not limited to) situations where the holder of an honour is sentenced to more than three months in prison, and:

- the offence involved disloyalty to the state; or
- the offence was committed by a civil servant and involved serious dereliction of duty; or
- the offence involved other disgraceful conduct such that public opinion would consider it wrong for the offender to hold a Royal honour.

Is that enough for current purposes? Let me know if you need anything more,

Kind regards

Rachel

**From:** Ellen Read s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:29 AM

**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a) David Williams [DPMC]

**Cc:** Andrew Campbell s9(2)(a)

**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Thanks Rachel s9(2)(g)(i)

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**

Office of the Prime Minister

s9(2)(a)

[SEEMAIL]

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:29 AM

**To:** Ellen Read s9(2)(a) : David Williams s9(2)(a)

**Cc:** Andrew Campbell

**Subject:** RE: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Thanks Ellen, we'll come back to you shortly.

**From:** Ellen Read s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:27 AM

**To:** David Williams [DPMC] s9(2)(a) ; Rachel Hayward [DPMC]

**Cc:** Andrew Campbell s9(2)(a)

**Subject:** FW: Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Hi Rachel and David,

s9(2)(g)(i)

Thanks  
Ellen

**Ellen Read | Deputy Chief Press Secretary**  
Office of the Prime Minister

s9(2)(a)

[SEEMAIL]

**From:** s9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 11:23 AM

**To:** Ellen Read s9(2)(a)

**Subject:** Urgent Media inquiry: Simple Q for Prime Minister

Ellen,

Sir Ron Brierley has been arrested for child pornography offences. Does the Prime Minister think he should be stripped of his knighthood if found guilty.

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)



s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 1:25 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Cc:** Jo Blick [GovtHouse]  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Ron Brierley

Will do

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 Dec 2019, 1:00 PM  
**To:** Fleur Gaston [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a), Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Ron Brierley

Thanks Fleur - if Govt House gets any inquiries could you please refer them to Ellen Read in PMO?

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** Fleur Gaston [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 Dec 2019, 12:37 PM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a), Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
**Subject:** Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2019/12/sir-ron-brierley-reportedly-arrested-on-child-pornography-charges.html>

[REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i)

F



Government House  
New Zealand

**Fleur Gaston**  
**Manager, Engagement and Events**  
Government House

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

W [www.gg.govt.nz](http://www.gg.govt.nz)

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:16 pm  
**To:** Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: questions regarding Sir Ron Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** ^Parliament: Ellen Read [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** NRB: questions regarding Sir Ron Brierley

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Ellen

I have directed [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) to contact PMO Press for a response to the questions below.

Cheers  
David



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

*Cabinet Office is a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.*

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 9:14 AM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: New Year's Honours List

Thank you.

ON another note who would be best to pose questions to about what it takes to have your knighthood taken off someone. Obviously we're looking at Sir Ron Brierley being accused of child pornography offences.

I doubt anyone wants to comment on that case but in general what are the rules around this and has anyone in NZ lost their knighthood for any reason.

Who would be able to answer these questions?

Thanks [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)



Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 10:03 am  
**To:** Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Ron Brierley

s9(2)(a)

---

**From:** Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 9:41 AM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Ron Brierley

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Do you have her contact details? I have a media inquiry from Australia

---

**From:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 December 2019 1:00 PM  
**To:** Fleur Gaston [DPMC] s9(2)(a) Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** David Williams [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Sir Ron Brierley

Thanks Fleur - if Govt House gets any inquiries could you please refer them to Ellen Read in PMO?

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Fleur Gaston [DPMC] s9(2)(a)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 Dec 2019, 12:37 PM  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC] s9(2)(a) Nerina Bennett [GovtHouse]  
**Subject:** Sir Ron Brierley

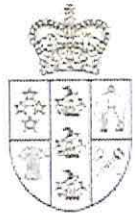
[IN-CONFIDENCE]

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2019/12/sir-ron-brierley-reportedly-arrested-on-child-pornography-charges.html>

s9(2)(g)(i)

F





Government House  
New Zealand

Fleur Gaston  
Manager, Engagement and Events  
Government House

s9(2)(a)

W [www.gg.govt.nz](http://www.gg.govt.nz)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



## Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:16 pm  
**To:** Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Brierley - with correction

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 2:06 PM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Brierley - with correction

Fyi  
[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Brierley - with correction

Hi, apologies, but I am sending a new version which has had corrections done. Please replace first version for your stockpile.

Thanks

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** [jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** Brierley  
Morena Jacinda,

Re: knighthood of Ron Brierley

This morning the nation learned that in a biography of Brierley in 1990 there was a revelation that he frequently travelled to Thailand for sex with young women/girls. It was news to me and I am sure many, many people.

I believe he should be stripped of his knighthood for that. I cannot understand why that was not done at the time, and why, when he was nominated for the knighthood two years prior that his actions were not taken into account. It would be naive to suggest that no-one knew. Perhaps the men making the decisions just shrugged it off.

We must remember that he could not have legally indulged in such repugnant activities in New Zealand.

Thailand has always had a massive sex industry but I spent some time there in the 80s and I am sure many people have read papers and books on victims of this trade. I know women in Australia campaigned strongly for a long time to stop sex tours to Thailand.

The girls that Brierley used would have been bought for a tiny sum from small farmers who live in poverty, sometimes they are stolen from families or simply lured to the cities with promises of incomes for themselves and their families.

They have no choice.

How can we possibly allow a man to carry on as though he is a respected New Zealander when he has abused young women in another country.

We cannot be a proud nation if we do not do something to show the world he is underserving of this country's highest accolade.

Your spin doctors will tell you that you can say he was given the knighthood for services to the country/business, and this is irrelevant, but a knight must be of good character – he clearly is not.

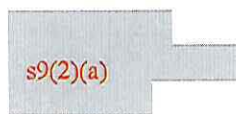
Forget the charges and court case looming in Australia. This has nothing to do with that. It has however revealed his evil, uncaring actions.

I am sorry you have so many difficult decisions to make, and scandals to try and get on top of, but as a feminist I don't think you can let this one go. Sadly we are a chauvinistic country so many men will see little wrong with Brierley's actions but you are respected leader and feminist. Please deliver this on behalf of women who care for young girls and women in other countries who are abused by white men (mostly) from Western countries.

**I recommend: Come out with a statement saying that the revelations in the biography, new to you today, will be researched and the honours committee will be analysing them. Emphasise the sex trade and its impact on girls – your researchers will find plenty of material on it.**

There need be no decision immediately but come the New Year I would hope the knighthood is gone.

Regards

 s9(2)(a)

Please get rid of the knight hoods/damehoods altogether as fomrer PM Helen Clark did.

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:15 pm  
**To:** Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 2:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** ^Parliament: Ellen Read [REDACTED] s9(2)(a) 'Rachel Hayward [DPMC]'  
**Subject:** RE: Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi s9(2)(a)

Could you please respond to this, and any other requests, by incorporating a version of the following response that has been agreed by PMO:

"A spokesperson said it would not be appropriate for the Prime Minister to comment on the possible forfeiture of honours at this stage."

Could you also copy us into any further correspondence that comes in about this matter.

Kind regards  
David



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

*Cabinet Office is a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.*

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 11:37 AM



To: David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
Subject: FW: Brierley

Hi – how should we respond/ or shall I say I was passing it to your unit?

Thanks

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

---

From: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
Sent: Thursday, 19 December 2019 11:26 AM  
To: Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Brierley

Morena Jacinda,

Re: knighthood of Ron Brierley

This morning the nation learned that in a biography of Brierley in 1990 there was a revelation that he frequently travelled to Thailand for sex with young women/girls. It was news to me and I am sure many, many people.

I believe he should be stripped of his knighthood for that. I cannot understand why that was not done at the time, and why, when he was nominated for the knighthood two years prior that his actions were not taken into account. It would be naive to suggest that no-one knew. Perhaps the men making the decisions just shrugged it off.

We must remember that he could not have legally indulged in such repugnant activities in New Zealand.

Thailand has always had a massive sex industry but I spent some time there in the 80s and I am sure many people have read papers and books on victims of this trade. I know women in Australia campaigned strongly for a long time to stop sex tours to Thailand.

The girls that Brierley used would have been bought for a tiny sum from small farmers who live in poverty, sometimes they are stolen from families or simply lured to the cities with promises of incomes for themselves and their families.

They have no choice.

How can we possibly allow a man to carry on as though he is a respected New Zealander when he has abused young women in another country.

We cannot be a proud nation if we do not do something to show the world he is underserving of this country's highest accolade.

Your spin doctors will tell you that you can say he was given the knighthood for services to the country/business, and this is irrelevant, but a knight must be of good character – he clearly is not.

Forget the charges and court case looming in Australia. This has nothing to do with that. It has however revealed his evil, uncaring actions.

I am sorry you have so many difficult decisions to make, and scandals to try and get on top of, but as a feminist I don't think you can let this one go. Sadly we are a chauvinistic country so many men will see little wrong with Brierley's actions but you are respected leader and feminist. Please deliver this on behalf of women who care for young girls and women in other countries who are abused by white men (mostly) from Western countries.

I recommend: Come out with a statement saying that the revelations in the biography, new to you today, will be researched and the honours committee will be analysing them. Emphasise the sex trade and its impact on girls – your researchers will find plenty of material on it.

There need be no decision immediately but come the New Year I would hope the knighthood is gone.

Regards

s9(2)(a)

Please get rid fo the knighthoods/damehoods altogether as fomrer PM Helen Clark did.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

---

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** Honours [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 February 2021 12:06 pm  
**To:** Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Re: Forfeiture of honorary title

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

---

**From:** Honours [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 December 2019 1:52 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Re: Forfeiture of honorary title

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email regarding Sir Ron Brierley and the forfeiture of his New Zealand honours.

It would not be appropriate for the Honours Unit to comment at this stage on the matters you have raised in relation to Sir Ron Brierley.

Information on the forfeiture of New Zealand Royal honours can be found on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-zealand-royal-honours/new-zealand-royal-honours-system/forfeiture-honours>

Kind regards,

David Williams  
for Honours Unit



Honours Unit | Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 830 5011  
Email: [honours@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:honours@dpmc.govt.nz)

*Cabinet Office is a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.*

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 6:41 PM  
**To:** Honours [DPMC] <[Honours@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:Honours@dpmc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Forfeiture of honorary title

Sent on the go with Vodafone

----- Original message -----

From: [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
Date: 18/12/2019 22:18 (GMT+09:30)  
To: [redacted] s9(2)(a)  
Subject: Re: Forfeiture of honorary title

[redacted] s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email. Ron Brierley was knighted in New Zealand, and as such falls outside the jurisdiction of the Forfeiture Committee here in the UK. I would suggest that you write to [honours@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:honours@dpmc.govt.nz)

I hope that assists.

[redacted] s9(2)(a)  
**Honours and Appointments Secretariat**  
G/40, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ  
[redacted] s9(2)(a)  
<http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>

On Wed, 18 Dec 2019 at 08:56, Honours Mailbox <[honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)> wrote:

**Honours and Appointments Secretariat**  
[honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) T: 02072762777  
Follow us on Twitter @cabinetofficeuk

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted] s9(2)(a)

>  
Date: Wed, 18 Dec 2019 at 05:14  
Subject: Forfeiture of honorary title  
To: [honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) <[honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:honours@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>

I would like to request that Sir Ron Brierley be stripped of his knighthood due to his arrest today for child pornography. Regardless of the outcome, I feel this type of behaviour undermines the value and meaning to those that have truly earned this title.



# Millionaire businessman Sir Ron Brierley charged with possessing child pornography

By crime reporter [Mark Reddie](#)

Look forward to your reply,

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

CAUTION - This message contains confidential information intended only for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this message you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this message is prohibited. If you have received this message in error please delete this from your system and notify me immediately.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 November 2020 4:19 pm  
**To:** Rachel Hayward [DPMC]; Griffen Ritchie [DPMC]; Michael Webster [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Sir Ron Brierley facing eight more charges of possessing child-abuse material

[UNCLASSIFIED]

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/wellington/123493833/sir-ron-brierley-facing-eight-more-charges-of-possessing-childabuse-material>



**David Williams**  
**Senior Advisor (Honours)**  
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

s9(2)(a)

*Cabinet Office is a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.*

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

**Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]**

---

**From:** David Williams [DPMC]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 February 2021 12:15 pm  
**To:** Charlotte Doyle [DPMC]  
**Subject:** FW: Brierley

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 December 2019 9:43 AM  
**To:** David Williams [DPMC] [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Brierley

Voila!

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 3:07 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Brierley

Dear [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, about Sir Ron Brierley and his knighthood.  
It would not be appropriate for the Prime Minister to comment on the possible forfeiture of honours at this stage.  
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
Office of the Prime Minister

Authorised by Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern MP, Parliament Buildings Wellington 6012

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 December 2019 11:26 AM  
**To:** Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern <[Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Brierley

Morena Jacinda,

Re: knighthood of Ron Brierley

This morning the nation learned that in a biography of Brierley in 1990 there was a revelation that he frequently travelled to Thailand for sex with young women/girls. It was news to me and I am sure many, many people.

I believe he should be stripped of his knighthood for that. I cannot understand why that was not done at the time, and why, when he was nominated for the knighthood two years prior that his actions were not taken into account. It would be naive to suggest that no-one knew. Perhaps the men making the decisions just shrugged it off.

We must remember that he could not have legally indulged in such repugnant activities in New Zealand.



Thailand has always had a massive sex industry but I spent some time there in the 80s and I am sure many people have read papers and books on victims of this trade. I know women in Australia campaigned strongly for a long time to stop sex tours to Thailand.

The girls that Brierley used would have been bought for a tiny sum from small farmers who live in poverty, sometimes they are stolen from families or simply lured to the cities with promises of incomes for themselves and their families.

They have no choice.

How can we possibly allow a man to carry on as though he is a respected New Zealander when he has abused young women in another country.

We cannot be a proud nation if we do not do something to show the world he is underserving of this country's highest accolade.

Your spin doctors will tell you that you can say he was given the knighthood for services to the country/business, and this is irrelevant, but a knight must be of good character – he clearly is not.

Forget the charges and court case looming in Australia. This has nothing to do with that. It has however revealed his evil, uncaring actions.

I am sorry you have so many difficult decisions to make, and scandals to try and get on top of, but as a feminist I don't think you can let this one go. Sadly we are a chauvinistic country so many men will see little wrong with Brierley's actions but you are respected leader and feminist. Please deliver this on behalf of women who care for young girls and women in other countries who are abused by white men (mostly) from Western countries.

**I recommend: Come out with a statement saying that the revelations in the biography, new to you today, will be researched and the honours committee will be analysing them. Emphasise the sex trade and its impact on girls – your researchers will find plenty of material on it.**

There need be no decision immediately but come the New Year I would hope the knighthood is gone.

Regards

s9(2)(a)

Please get rid of the knighthoods/damehoods altogether as former PM Helen Clark did.

IN CONFIDENCE

## 6 Honours

### Forfeiture of honours

The following summary is found on the DPMC website:

#### Guidelines on Forfeiture of Royal Honours

The Prime Minister may consider advising The Queen to cancel the appointment of a person to an Order where an individual's actions are such that, if they continue to hold that honour, the honours system would be brought into disrepute.

Examples include (but are not limited to) situations where the holder of an honour is sentenced to more than three months in prison, and:

- the offence involved disloyalty to the state; or
- the offence was committed by a civil servant and involved serious dereliction of duty; or
- the offence involved other disgraceful conduct such that public opinion would consider it wrong for the offender to hold a Royal honour (bringing the honours system into disrepute).

The Honours Unit provides advice and support to the Prime Minister in relation to forfeiture of honours. Where a complaint is made, the Honours Unit relies on the facts being clearly established, generally by an independent body for example by a court decision or the findings of a tribunal. The Honours Unit does not have any fact-finding or investigatory powers – it does not decide whether someone is guilty or innocent of a particular act.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Out of scope