



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

31 March 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-0757

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request: Difference between Queen's Service Medal and Queen's Fire Service Medal

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 20 March 2025. You requested:

Is there a difference between a Queens Service Medal and a Queens Fire Service Medal. If so, can you please explain the difference

Information being released

The Queen's Service Medal (now named the King's Service Medal), and the Queen's Fire Service Medal are distinct and separate honours. While both are/were part of the New Zealand Royal Honours, Orders and Awards system, they relate to different types of service. Each is explained below.

The Queen's Service Order, along with the associated Queen's Service Medal, was instituted in 1975 to recognise community and public service. Following the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the Order was renamed as the King's Service Order with the associated medal now titled the King's Service Medal. The Royal Warrant is available to see here: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2024/0051/latest/LMS944426.html>

The Queen's Fire Service Medal was instituted in 1954 to recognise acts of gallantry performed by members of the fire service. Following the establishment of the New Zealand Gallantry and Bravery Awards in 1999, the Queen's Fire Service Medal is no longer awarded in New Zealand. The Royal Warrant and associated regulations are here:

https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1955/0022/latest/whole.html?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_queen%27s+fire+service_resel_25_a&p=1#DLM8723.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act. This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
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