



7 August 2023

Tēnā koe,

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request – taonga tūturu from Taranaki

I am writing in response to your OIA request transferred from Manatū Taonga | Ministry of Culture and Heritage on 7 July, in which the following information was requested:

- *How many taonga Māori (taonga that once belonged to Māori or are otherwise Māori in origin) currently rest in the national collection?*
- *How many of these taonga rest within the tribal boundaries of where they were discovered or their original owners/creators whakapapa to?*
- *How many taonga Māori of or from Taranaki rest in the national collection?*
- *How many of these rest within the Taranaki rohe?*
- *Is there a plan to return taonga Māori to the areas where they are most strongly connected?*

The response to your queries is outlined below by each question.

How many taonga Māori (taonga that once belonged to Māori or are otherwise Māori in origin) currently rest in the national collection?

There are approximately 31,883 taonga Māori registered into the national collection, along with approximately 334 miheke 'taonga' Moriori. The combined total is approximately 32,217 taonga.

How many of these taonga rest within the tribal boundaries of where they were discovered or their original owners/creators whakapapa to?

Approximately 90% of the total taonga held by Te Papa has no provenance information or record of where they are from originally. Most are not localised to an extent which would enable an iwi attribution.

Approximately 1,866 of these taonga rest within the tribal boundaries of where they were discovered, these being taonga from the Wellington region.

How many taonga Māori of or from Taranaki rest in the national collection?

Te Papa's collection database lists 747 taonga from the Taranaki region.

How many of these rest within the Taranaki rohe?

There are four taonga on loan to Puke Ariki Museum:

- Paepae pataka ME004656
- Paepae pataka ME014335
- Paepae pataka ME004657
- Tauihu (prow) ME024181

Please note in responding to this question we have looked at taonga in the Taranaki region, which contains several iwi groups, rather than specifically the tribal rohe of Taranaki iwi, which is but one of the several iwi of Taranaki.

Is there a plan to return taonga Māori to the areas where they are most strongly connected?

The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa [Statement of Intent 2023-27](#) states: *Over the next four years we will begin the journey to foster reconciliation, healing and improved wellbeing through restoration initiatives including repatriation* (p.13).

Repatriation is considered in partnership with the iwi/hapū on a case by case basis and can take some time but can be initiated by contacting our Kaihautū and Director of Collections and Research.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request please contact me at OIA@tepapa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Frances Lawrence
Principal Advisor Strategy, Planning and Performance