

Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi  
MŌHIO KŌHĀWĀHĀ O WHAREKAURI IWI

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11 December 2020

Mrs Lillian Anderson  
Chief Executive, Te Arawhiti  
Level 3, The Justice Centre  
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Tena koe ano,

### **Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Negotiations**

Yesterday Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Negotiators met with Te Arawhiti to discuss the way to reach an Agreement in Principle that is mutually acceptable to the Crown and Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri. I want to thank you for responding to our request in August 2020 to refresh the Crown team in order that Negotiations may move forward. For our part Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri remains committed to reaching a Settlement with the Crown and will continue to engage in Negotiations on the basis of good faith.

As part of discussions, we were informed that Minister Little is currently considering the appointment of a new Chief Crown Negotiator. We were surprised by this news as we had not been informed that Dame Fran Wilde was no longer the Chief Crown Negotiator for our Negotiations.

We would like to see this appointment made as soon as possible. In our observation Chief Crown Negotiators tend to be rather homogenous middle class Pākeha with political connections who are uncomfortable with the cultural concepts that are central to complex claims such as ours. We consider this appointment to be critical to the overdue resolution of our historical grievances with the Crown. Our view is that this resolution will be achieved most quickly by the appointment of a Chief Crown Negotiator who finds a Māori world view natural and comfortable. Accordingly, we wish to be part of the selection process so that this aspect of the Chief Crown Negotiator's capabilities can be assessed by those on whom they will most impact.

Following the appointment of the Chief Crown Negotiator, I would like to meet with you both to discuss the issues around Negotiations which remain unresolved and agree a roadmap and timeline to an Agreement in Principle and Deed of Settlement.

Heoi anō, Nāku noa

Nā



Tom McClurg, Lead Negotiator