

# THE BRITISH MUSEUM

James Te Puni  
Museum of New Zealand  
Director Maori Strategy  
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Cable Street  
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NEW ZEALAND

28 April 2006

Dear Mr Te Puni

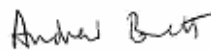
Thank you for your letter of 12 April, received here on 20 April, to Lissant Bolton (and copied to Neil MacGregor) concerning the 7 Toi moko and 7 koiwi tangata in our collection. I am replying on her behalf as the Museum official whose responsibility it is to take forward the processing of claims on human remains in the collection.

As you know, because of a recent change in the law here, the British Museum can now give serious consideration to claims on human remains in the collection. The Museum's Trustees, have recently published their policy for dealing with such claims, which is available on the Museum's website. I enclose a copy for your information. It is intended to provide clear information for claimants and others on the kinds of criteria the Trustees will use in considering claims, and the process they will follow. May I draw your attention particularly to the section entitled 'Procedure of making a claim'.

The Museum is very keen to see this process as an opportunity to build new relationships with the Maori people and look for new ways of creating cultural partnerships between us. Through loans and other cultural exchanges, I am sure that we can work together to ensure that worldwide understanding of the significance of the cultural achievement of the Maori people can be promoted in New Zealand and worldwide.

My colleagues and I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Burnett  
Deputy Director

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