

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

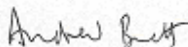
Dr Te Taru White
Museum of New Zealand
Te Papa Tongarewa
Cable Street
PO Box 467
Wellington
New Zealand

5 December 2006

Dear Dr White

1. Further to my previous letter I can report that the Trustees have now had an initial discussion of your claim for the return of 16 human remains.
2. The Trustees have asked me to organise two independent reports. The first will look at the cultural significance of the items and the second at their scientific significance (particularly for the study of epidemiology or genetics).
3. They have asked me to seek the views of the New Zealand government which I will do in the first instance by contacting the New Zealand High Commission in London.
4. They also asked that I should seek the views of Te Papa on the following questions:
 - a) How would Te Papa regard the Trustees making a long-term loan of some or all of the human remains to Te Papa?
 - b) How would Te Papa view the possibility of scientific research being carried out on the remains?
 - c) Would Te Papa be willing to indicate the final resting place of the remains if they were returned?
5. The Trustees would hope to make a resolution of the matter at their meeting on 29th March. I will, of course, forward to you well before that meeting the reports and information that we will be giving to the Trustees, so that you can comment on or supplement it as you may wish to help inform the Trustees discussion.
6. If we are to adhere to the timetable it would be most helpful if you could respond to the questions in paragraph 4 by February 23rd 2007.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Burnett
Deputy Director

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