

18 February 2025

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New Zealand

Personal details removed for proactive release

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OIA 29909

Thank you for your email of 27 January 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *"Documents that were submitted to the Governor-General for approval of appointment of Ambassador Hamish Cooper to the post of Ambassador to Japan;*
2. *Letters of credence, or similar written correspondences, from and to New Zealand conveying (or otherwise confirming) the above appointment."*

Attached are the documents relevant to your request.

Some of the advice prepared for the Governor-General by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(i) of the OIA, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being, which protect the confidentiality of communications by or with the Sovereign or her representative.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

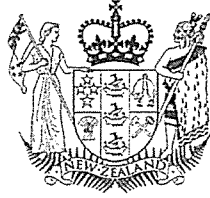
Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:  
[www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade



*Patsy Reddy*

Governor-General

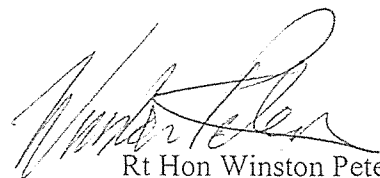
I, **THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DAME PATSY REDDY**, Chancellor and Principal Dame Grand Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, Principal Companion of The Queen's Service Order, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Realm of New Zealand, exercising powers assigned to me by Her Majesty The Queen of New Zealand, and all other powers me thereunto enabling, hereby appoint **HAMISH NEVILLE FRANCIS COOPER** to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of New Zealand to Japan.

Given under the Hand of Her Excellency The Governor-General of

New Zealand, and issued under the Seal of New Zealand

this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019

By Her Excellency's Command,

  
Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

**NOTE NUMBER:**

The New Zealand Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and has the honour to inform the Ministry that the New Zealand Government wishes to nominate Hamish Neville Francis Cooper as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of New Zealand to Japan, with residence in Tokyo and in succession to His Excellency Mr Stephen Payton.

The New Zealand Embassy accordingly requests the assistance of the Ministry in seeking the agrément of the Government of Japan to this appointment. A curriculum vitae for Mr Cooper is attached.

The New Zealand Embassy takes this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan the assurances of its highest consideration.


New Zealand Embassy

TOKYO

[Date]

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## HAMISH NEVILLE FRANCIS COOPER

<b>Date of Birth</b>	13 November 1959	
<b>Citizenships</b>	New Zealand	
<b>Languages</b>	Japanese	
<b>Education</b>	BA (University of Canterbury, 1981) MA (University of Pennsylvania, 1982)	

<b>Employment History</b>	
<b>Dates</b>	<b>1985 to present: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</b>
2017 to present	Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
2016-17	Principal Adviser, Multilateral and Legal Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
2013-16	Ambassador to the Russian Federation (accredited also to Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)
2009-12	Director, International Security and Disarmament Division and Coordinator for Counter-terrorism
2006-09	Ambassador to Turkey (accredited also to Israel, Palestinian Authority and Jordan)
2005-06	Foreign Affairs Adviser to Minister of Foreign Affairs
2003-05	Private Secretary to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
2003-04	Deputy Director, Security Policy Division
2000-03	Deputy Head of Mission, New Zealand Embassy, Tokyo
1998-99	Consul-General, New Zealand Consulate-General, Osaka
1994-98	First Secretary, then Counsellor, New Zealand High Commission, London
1991-94	North Asia Division, Australia Division
1989-91	Second Secretary, New Zealand Embassy, Tokyo
1987-88	Japanese language training, Foreign Service Institute, Yokohama
1985-87	Americas Division, Economic Division

Translation

No. 538/M-PL

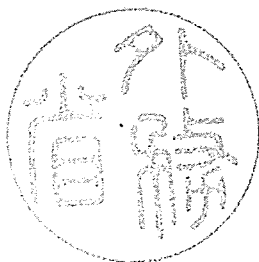
NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the New Zealand Embassy and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Embassy's Note No. 9, dated February 15, 2019, requesting the agrément of the Government of Japan to the appointment of Mr. Hamish Neville Francis Cooper as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of New Zealand to Japan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has further the honour to state in reply that the Government of Japan agrees to the proposed appointment with great pleasure.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the New Zealand Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Tokyo, April 4, 2019.



儀第 538 号

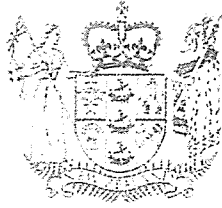
平成31年4月4日

口 上 書

外務省は、在本邦ニュージーランド大使館に敬意を表するとともに、ハーミッシュ・ネヴィル・フランシス・クーパー氏の本邦駐箚ニュージーランド特命全権大使の任命につき、日本国政府の同意を要請する2019年2月15日付同大使館口上書第9号の受領を確認する光栄を有する。

外務省は、日本国政府がハーミッシュ・ネヴィル・フランシス・クーパー氏の任命に欣然と同意する旨回答する光栄を有する。

外務省は、この機会に在本邦ニュージーランド大使館に改めて敬意を表する。



**HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DAME PATSY REDDY, GNZM, QSO**  
*Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand*

*His Majesty the Emperor of Japan*

*Your Majesty*

*Being desirous to maintain and promote the relations of amity and concord which so happily exist between Japan and New Zealand, I have appointed Hamish Neville Francis Cooper to reside with you in the character of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of New Zealand. Mr Cooper's high character, ability and commitment to duty assure me that he will discharge the duties of his Mission in such a manner as to merit Your approval and esteem.*

*I therefore request that Your Majesty receive him favourably and give full credence to all that he may communicate to You in the name of New Zealand, and especially when he renews to You the assurance of my continuing interest in and good wishes for the welfare and prosperity of Japan.*

*Patsy Reddy*

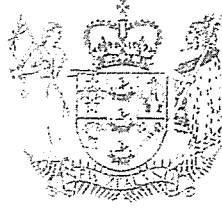
*At Government House in Wellington*

*the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of*

*May*

*Two Thousand and Nineteen*





**HER EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DAME PATSY REDDY, GNZM, QSO**

*Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand*

*His Majesty the Emperor of Japan*

*Your Majesty*

*Having need elsewhere for the services of Stephen Edgar Payton, who has been residing with You as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of New Zealand, I wish to notify You of his Recall.*

*I have been satisfied with the zeal, ability and loyalty with which Mr Payton has carried out his functions during his assignment. I hope that his conduct will also have merited Your approval.*

*I take this opportunity to renew to Your Majesty the assurance of my continuing friendship and of my interest in and good wishes for the welfare and prosperity of Japan.*

*Patsy Reddy*

*At Government House in Wellington*

*the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of*

*May*

*Two Thousand and Nineteen*