



28 June 2023

Tēnā koe

On 30 May 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of job referrals made to businesses in the last year (1 April 22 to 31 March 23) where the person being referred was not a New Zealand visa holder and the number of referrals in the last year made for those holding a temporary visa for New Zealand that was not a partnership-based visa.*

You may be interested in knowing that there is a wide range of visas that allow people to work in New Zealand and you can find more information here: www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/visa-lists/all-work-visas.

The Ministry screens all job seekers before they are referred to a vacancy. First, to ensure that they are legally able to work in New Zealand, before then assessing their suitability for the vacancy by matching their qualifications, skills and attributes to the requirements of the job.

Regarding your request, the Ministry does not centrally record a job seeker's immigration status when referring people to work. This immigration information is held in notes in individual files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response about the number of job referrals made by the Ministry for people who do not hold the appropriate visa, 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 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

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