



MP for Palmerston North

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Deputy Leader of the House

Minister of Immigration

Minister for ACC

11 JUL 2019

MOIA 66

Mr Mills

fyi-request-10533-a71acda4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Mills

Thank you for your 13 June 2019 email to me requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

"We seek the release of any information related to the Essential Skills Work Visa Policy changes, of particular interest are:

- *Any documents or correspondence from the Minister of Immigration reporting back to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation and any changes to the proposals and any implementation plan including the financial implications of the proposals.*
- *We also seek any documents or correspondence from the Minister of Immigration, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Social Development and the Minister of Employment on proposals to support domestic labour market outcomes by aligning the education/skills, welfare, and immigration systems at regional level. Relevant documents or correspondence between the Minister of Immigration and Immigration New Zealand would also be appreciated".*

Your request has been considered under the Act.

As you may be aware, from December to March of this year I consulted the public on a set of reforms to employer-assistant temporary work visas and regional workforce planning. You can find a link to the consultation document and Cabinet paper on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-a-new-approach-to-employer-assisted-work-visas-and-regional-workforce-planning/>.

With regard to the first part of your request, neither I nor my Ministerial colleagues have taken any proposals to Cabinet to seek agreement to recommended changes. As such I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the documents you have requested do not exist.

While some information does exist in relation to the consultation feedback and initial advice from officials to me on the changes, these have not yet been to Cabinet for consideration. I am therefore refusing this part your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as the information you have requested is under active consideration.

I do however note the public interest in the information you have requested and as such I have asked officials to proactively publish the Cabinet paper once it has been to Cabinet.

Thank you again for your request. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iain Lees-Galloway', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister of Immigration