



25/07/2019

Ref: DOIA 1819-1899

A KS

fyi-request-10624-7b710050@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear A KS

Thank you for your 27 June 2019 email to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- This is regarding the Parents Residency visa. INZ is still accepting new EOIs. But this month the INZ website has changed some text on its website. Link to website:*

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/parent-resident-visa>

On this page, word "closed" is mentioned while till last month it was mentioned as "temporarily closed".

Please tell what has changed and why word "temporarily closed" has been replaced with "closed".

Has INZ decided to close this visa permanently?

If possible, please share any official decision document behind this change to the website.
- Could you please share any other official document regarding advice/proposal to the Hon. Minister regarding this visa review since Dec 2018.*
- If for point 2, documents cannot be shared, could you please share at least the list of documents.*
- Any anticipated date when parent resident visa review decisions will be announced?*
- Please advise whether NZ government is working on any proposal regarding changes to NZ parents and grandparents visitor visa?*

Your request has been considered under the Act.

Thank you for bringing to our attention the update to the "temporarily closed" banner on Immigration New Zealand's *Information about Parent Resident Visa* webpage. I am advised that the update was a technical issue that has now been resolved. If you re-visit the website you will notice that the original banner has been reinstated.

You may already be aware that in October 2016 the previous Government reduced the number of places available through the Category from 5,500 to 2,000 per year, and the Category was temporarily closed for new applications while it was reviewed.

I can advise that the Minister of Immigration is now considering advice on its future. The Minister expects for decisions regarding restarting selections and the Category's policy settings to be made during this Government's term. As information about the future of the Category has not yet been taken to Cabinet for final approval I am refusing your request for documents or a list of documents about this advice under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

Once the matter has been before Cabinet and a decision has been made, it will be communicated as soon as possible. The Cabinet paper will be proactively published in MBIE's *Document Library* 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Siân Roguski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise