

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway



MP for Palmerston North

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Deputy Leader of the House

Minister of Immigration

Minister for ACC

11 MAR 2020

A KS

fyi-request-11970-9013c1f6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear A KS

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2020 regarding the threshold considered by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) in determining whether visa applicants are likely to impose significant costs on New Zealand's health services.

You have queried whether there is any plan to increase the \$41,000 threshold for determining high cost health conditions under immigration health screening requirements. The Immigration Health Team within INZ will begin a review of this threshold in the current calendar year. The Immigration Health Team is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to work together on shared initiatives, which will include a review of the \$41,000 threshold.

At this stage the Immigration Health Team has planned to review the threshold, however, it has not yet begun to undertake the analysis. The methodology that has previously been approved by Cabinet to produce the threshold requires hospital data, which identifies the conditions associated with the highest five percent of hospital service users' costs, and data on the average annual costs per capita and per user of health services to determine where a reasonable threshold might lie. The Immigration Health Team will work with the Ministry of Health to gain access to this data so that the benchmark can be reset as appropriate. It is intended that the review will take place towards the latter half of this year.

With regards to future reviews of the threshold, the Immigration Health Team intends to formalise a process for regular cyclical review as part of the planned evaluation of the current threshold.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iain Lees-Galloway'.

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister of Immigration