



30 September 2020

Mr Kevin Smith
fyi-request-13076-e0750d1f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1920-1739

Dear Mr Smith,

I refer to your request email of 11 June 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Are there, or have there ever been, plans for sharing data for immigration purposes with Migration 5 partners on an automated/systematic way using only biographic data, such as names, DOBs etc? Please provide details with related documents and correspondence.”

On 23 June 2020, the Ministry wrote to let you know that we are extending the timeframe to respond to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

On 20 August 2020, the Ministry advised that we have decided to grant your request and that it will require some time to prepare the documents that is in scope of your request.

New Zealand is part of the Migration Five (previously known as the Five Country Conference) and shares biometric and biographic data with Australia, Canada, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom. More information about how INZ collects and uses data can be found on: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/about-us/privacyimpactassessment.pdf>

Biographic-based information sharing seeks to supplement existing biometric information sharing arrangements by allowing Migration Five (M5) partners to query each other using non-biometric data elements. In 2016, the M5 Data Sharing Working Group (DSWG) explored potential arrangements and platforms to enhance biographic data sharing capability between the five countries. The DSWG also completed ‘High Level Business Requirements’ that allowed for a number of bilateral automated biographic querying pilots in 2017-18. In 2019, the DSWG decided not to pursue automated biographic information sharing further beyond the existing bilateral arrangements in place at the time.

Documents identified within scope of your request are outlined in Appendix A and copies of these are attached to this letter. The table in Appendix A also lists the specific grounds under which information has been withheld. Information deemed out of scope of your request has also been excluded.

Please note that under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, the Ministry is providing you excerpts from the Agenda and Minutes of the DSWG meetings.



You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JE', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacqui Ellis
General Manager – Intelligence, Data and Insights
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Appendix A

No	Document	Decision
1	Data Sharing Working Group Year in Review 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. Where information is not in scope, this has not been provided.
2	Automated Information Sharing using Biographic Queries 15 August 2016	<p>Released with some information withheld under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government; • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand. • Section 9(2)(j) of the Act, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). <p>Where information is not in scope, this has not been provided.</p>
3	Data Sharing Working Group Vision and Strategy October 2017	<p>Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. Where information is not in scope, this has not been provided. Some information withheld under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the

		<p>Government of any other country or any agency of such Government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
4	DSWG Biographic Querying Pilot update October 2017	<p>Released with some information withheld under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government; • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
5	Automated Biographic Information Sharing October 2015	<p>Released with some information withheld under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government; • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
6	High Level Business Requirements Automated Information Sharing using Biographic Queries (SRTP) 16	<p>Withheld in full under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the

	August 2018	<p>making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government; • Section 9(2)(k) of the Act, to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.
7	Excerpts from Minutes and Agenda of DSWG meetings	<p>Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. Some information withheld under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons; • Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government; • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
8	Data Sharing Working Group Pushing Out Borders through Data Sharing October 2017	<p>Withheld in full under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or

		<p>any agency of such Government;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand. <p>Where information is not in scope, this has not been provided.</p>
9	Project Initiation Document Australia and New Zealand Biographic Querying	<p>Withheld in full under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government; • Section 9(2)(k) of the Act, to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.
10	Data Sharing Working Group Year in Review 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018	<p>Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act. Where information is not in scope, this has not been provided. Some information withheld under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial; • Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government.
11	Data Sharing Working Group Biographic Querying Supporting Paper	<p>Released with some information withheld under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such Government;• Section 6(c) of the Act, as the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.
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