



MP for Christchurch East

Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector

Associate Minister of Immigration

Associate Minister for Social Development

Associate Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration

3 1 JUL 2020

George Morrison

[fyi-request-13246-6ae7b1b3@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13246-6ae7b1b3@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear George Morrison,

I refer to your official information request received by my office on 7 July 2020, in which you request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Please provide me with all communications and information relating to any requests by members of parliament in support of visa applications for Mr Andy Wigmore and/or Mr Arron Banks and/or their associates.*

*Please also provide me with any information relating to applications to grant Mr Wigmore and/or Mr Banks and/or their associates with special entry visas.*

I can confirm that I have received no communications relating to the above individuals in support of visa applications. This request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist.

I can also confirm that there is no record of any request for a border exception under the 'other critical worker' criteria for the individuals you mention, or indeed any other criteria. This request has also been refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

The bar for being granted an exception to the border restrictions is set high to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of people already in New Zealand. All individual requests for exceptions to the border restrictions are considered against the strict criteria set out in immigration instructions.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision to withhold material from the released information. The relevant contact details are as follows:

Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10152  
WELLINGTON 6143  
Ph 0800 802 602  
[www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Yours sincerely

Hon Poto Williams  
Associate Minister of Immigration