

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Justice
Minister for Broadcasting and Media
Minister of Immigration



27 NOV 2020

MOIA 78

George Morrison
fyi-request-13246-6ae7b1b3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear George Morrison

I refer to your official information request sent to the previous Minister of Immigration 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 from members of parliament in support of visa applications from 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.

With regards to the first part of your request, I can confirm that no information within the scope of the request was received. This request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist.

With regards to the second part of your request, 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 is also 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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kris Faafoi', written over a faint circular stamp.

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Immigration