

Rt Hon Winston Peters

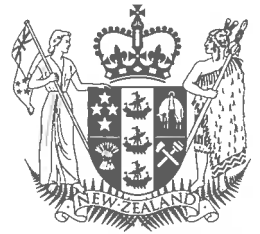
Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Racing



14 AUG 2020

George Morrison

fyi-request-13247-ea5dd7f8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear George Morrison

This letter concerns your Official Information Act request, received 7 July 2020, for the following:

"Please provide me with all communications held by your office to and from Mr Andy Wigmore and/or Mr Arron Banks and/or their associates. Please also provide me with any communications to and from Darroch Ball MP and/or his office since 1 January 2020."

Please find attached all official correspondence between my ministerial office, Arron Banks, and his associates. No such correspondence has been found with Andy Wigmore and/or his associates, therefore that part of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Act: the information requested does not exist.

In regards to the correspondence with Arron Banks and his associates, consular assistance was provided to Mr Banks that is consistent with my ministerial office's actions throughout this Government, where we offer assistance to those who encounter difficulties with emigration, and subsequently contact our office.

I have interpreted the latter part of your request as relating to the first part. No official correspondence regarding Andy Wigmore, Arron Banks, or their associates has taken place between Darroch Ball and my ministerial office in the period you have specified. Therefore, that part of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Act.

Please note that information has only been considered that was undertaken as Minister of the Crown in an official capacity, as per section 2(1)(a)(ii) of the Act. Any other information held, i.e. in my capacity as New Zealand First Leader, has not been considered for release.

Some personal contact details have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act: to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Deputy Prime Minister

From: Helen Lahtinen
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2020 10:49 AM
To: 'Arron Banks SB'
Subject: RE: Transit visa

Great, good to hear. Have a safe trip home next week.

Helen

From: Arron Banks SB [mailto:[59\(z\)\(u\)](mailto:59(z)(u)@parliament.govt.nz)]
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2020 8:22 AM
To: Helen Lahtinen <Helen.Lahtinen@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Transit visa

Thanks Helen , weirdly in the interim the visa got granted ? ! So all good thanks
Arron

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Jun 2020, at 08:14, Helen Lahtinen <Helen.Lahtinen@parliament.govt.nz> wrote:

This email originated from outside our organisation, either from an external partner or the internet.

Arron,

I've just tried that number and it's not correct. So hold on, I'll see what has gone wrong

Helen

From: Arron Banks SB <[59\(z\)\(u\)](mailto:59(z)(u)@parliament.govt.nz)>
Date: Thursday, 11 Jun 2020, 7:36 PM
To: Helen Lahtinen <Helen.Lahtinen@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: [59\(z\)\(u\)](mailto:59(z)(u)@parliament.govt.nz)
Subject: Re: Transit visa

Thanks I'll call him am.. thanks

Arron

Is he expecting my call ?

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Jun 2020, at 18:49, Helen Lahtinen <Helen.Lahtinen@parliament.govt.nz> wrote:

This email originated from outside our organisation, either from an external partner or the internet.

Hi Arron and Alice)

Try calling James Watson, from Home Affairs here in Wellington and explain your situation:

James Watson
Regional Director, Pacific
Australian High Commission Wellington
59(2)(a)

Let me know how you get on.

Thank you

Helen

From: Arron Banks SB/ 59(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2020 5:04 PM
To: Helen Lahtinen <Helen.Lahtinen@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Transit visa

Hi Helen, please see the email chain we discussed with attachments showing the visa applications.

Our flights out are 9.05am ANZ 123 16th June and the 22.15pm Qatar 905 same day

Thanks

Arron

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: ; 59(2)(a)
Date: 11 June 2020 at 01:49:32 GMT+12
To: Arron Banks SB/ 59(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Transit visa

Attached are the letters for you and [redacted] about the biometrics. All the relevant information you need is included in the letters.

Thanks,

§ 9(2)(a)

Personal Assistant to Arron Banks

§ 9(2)(a)

, Bristol, BS10 7TQ

From: Arron Banks SB · § 9(2)(a)

Sent: 10 June 2020 14:25

To: § 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Transit visa

Do you have the visa number or reference ?

Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Jun 2020, at 21:43, § 9(2)(a) wrote:

Thanks for sending across the pages of the passports. Applications have been sent off.

Biometric data has been requested but given the Covid situation the centres are closed.

As I do not have authorisation on your applications, please call the Australian visa department on: 00 61 2 6196 0196 and give the following information to escalate your applications:

- State the transit visa application sent off online
- State travel dates for you and Peter – departing Auckland Tuesday, 16 June
- State you've been sent a request for biometric data but offices are closed due to Covid
- Ask for the biometric request to be escalated and removed so the visas can be granted before you fly

The lines are open 24 hours.

Thanks,

§ 9(2)(a)

§ 9(2)(a)

Personal Assistant to Arron Banks

DDI: S 9(z)(u)
S 9(z)(u)
Bristol, BS10 7TQ

From: Arron Banks SB
S 9(z)(u)
Sent: 09 June 2020 10:21
To: S 9(z)(u)
Subject: Re: Transit visa

I'll do it tomorrow and send through...
A

From:
S 9(z)(u)
Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2020 at 21:19
To: Arron Banks SB
S 9(z)(u)
Subject: RE: Transit visa

For the visa, we have to provide all pages of yours and S 9(z)(u) passport that show stamps for entry to other countries visited. Are you able to take a photo of all pages on yours and S 9(z)(u)'s passport and send across?

Thanks,

S 9(z)(u)

Personal Assistant to Arron Banks

DDI: S 9(z)(u)

Bristol, BS10 7TQ

From: Arron Banks SB
S 9(z)(u)
Sent: 09 June 2020 09:55
To: S 9(z)(u)
Subject: Re: Transit visa

I had visa not renewed in the USA , and spent 5 hours in Washington immigration so I'm sensitive to it!
We need to directly check visa requirements on any trip that might need one, etc

Thanks

A

From: /

S 9(2)(a)

Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2020 at 20:52

To: Arron Banks SB

S 9(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Transit visa

This came direct from the airline to me. But I take note of this moving forwards.

Thanks,

S 9(2)(a)

Personal Assistant to Arron Banks

S 9(2)(a)

Bristol, BS10 7TQ

From: Arron Banks SB

S 9(2)(a)

Sent: 09 June 2020 09:40

To:

Subject: Re: Transit visa

Thanks on that point we can't trust agents to tell us visa requirements and need to check independently

Thanks

A

From:

S 9(2)(a)

Date: Tuesday, 9 June 2020 at 20:36

To: Arron Banks SB

S 9(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Transit visa

Due to the coronavirus and unusual situation of flights at the moment, I was only made aware yesterday. I have already completed them and will let you know once they have been authorised.

Thanks,

S 9(2)(a)

Personal Assistant to Arron Banks

s9(2)(a)

Bristol, BS10 7TQ

Landline: s9(2)(a)

Mobile:

On 8 Jun 2020, at 19:12, Arron Banks
SB

s9(2)(a)
wrote:

Thanks .. we do need to check these things with a bit more notice , I get very nervous about stuff like this
Arron

Sent from my iPhone

On 9 Jun 2020, at
00:03, s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)
wrote:

Hi Arron,

I have been informed that you will require a transit visa for your time in Melbourne as you will be there for over 8 hours. Would you like me to complete this for you and s9(2)(a)

Thanks,

s9(2)(a)

Personal Assistant to
Arron Banks

DDI: s9(2)(a)
Mobile:

s9(2)(a)

Bristol, BS10

7TQ