



31 July 2020

George Morrison

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

File No: DOIA 2021 – 0081

Dear George Morrison,

Thank you for your email on 7 July 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*Please provide me with all communications and information from 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 or essential service waivers.*

#### **Our response**

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment can confirm that we 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 to contest the decision to withhold information by seeking an investigation and review of that decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.



If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Lester Deane-Royce, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at [Lester.Deane@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Lester.Deane@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Hogg', written in a cursive style.

Nicola Hogg  
General Manager – Border and Visa Operations  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment