



8 December 2020

T. Zhang

[fyi-request-14040-d5c48cb7@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14040-d5c48cb7@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: DOIA 2021-0887

Dear T. Zhang,

Thank you for your email of 27 October 2020 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

*"I have recently taken an interest in the history of physical visa labels, however, I wasn't able to locate a comprehensive list of physical visa Label designs New Zealand has used. For the purpose of this Official Information Request, could Immigration New Zealand please provide:*

- 1. A list of iterations or versions of physical visa label designs New Zealand has used, preferably in chronological order;*
- 2. An image of a specimen for each iteration or version;*
- 3. The background image used in each iteration or version and what it depict."*

### **Our Response**

Prior to 1990, endorsements were stamped into travel documents by hand. To provide more consistent and easy to read visas and permits, a new system of machine-printed adhesive labels was introduced and used from 1990 to 1997. The background image in these visa labels included a fluorescent fern leaf. Refer to Appendix 1 for examples of the label designs used from 1990 to 1997.

A new style of visa label was introduced in September 1997 for offices in New Zealand, and from October 1997 for offices offshore. The new label was an adhesive label that came in two forms, a laser printed sticky label, and a handwritten sticky label which was issued by New Zealand Embassies or posts (offshore). Both visa label background images showcase a fern leaf. Refer to Appendix 2 for examples of printed, handwritten and electronic labels.

Since 1997, the physical visa label styles have had minimal changes however, they have had a range of increased security features added which are designed to make copying or forgery difficult. The new visa label backgrounds include three optical layers, the front being a view of New Zealand, the second layer is of the Koru (Fern Leaf Symbol) and the third layer is a world map. Refer to Appendix 3 for an example of the current physical visa label.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Lautalie Leausa Vaa, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at [Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,

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

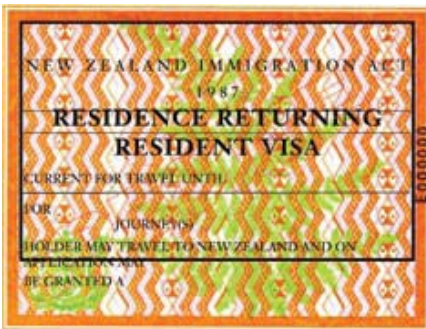
Nicola Hogg  
General Manager - Border and Visa Operations  
Immigration New Zealand

## Appendix 1: Examples of previous label designs

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Example of a Combined Residence Returning Resident Visa.



*N.B. A Combined Residence Returning Resident Visa and Residence Permit states Residence Permit.*

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Appendix 3: Example of current electronic physical visa label

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