



10 May 2021

Lobby New Zealand
fyi-request-15116-2a4608bc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2020/21-0506

Dear Lobby New Zealand

Official Information Act request relating to advice on the legitimacy of placing bans on returning citizens and permanent residents

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 9 April 2021. You requested:

“Advice given to Cabinet by any Ministry and/or public officials on the legitimacy of putting a temporary and/or permanent ban of New Zealand citizens and permanent residents from entering New Zealand from overseas, including from other Nations in the Realms of New Zealand, based on the grounds of Covid-19, in accordance with international and New Zealand law and any related exemptions.

If it is possible to put such a ban, as considered in Question 1, advice given to Cabinet by the Ministry and/or public officials whether they should exercise such possibility to put a temporary and/or permanent ban, based on the grounds of Covid-19, of New Zealand citizens and permanent residents currently overseas, and if there is any such advice that applies to the other Nations in the Realms of New Zealand.”

I have decided under section 15A of the Act to extend the time limits for deciding on your request by an additional 20 working days. Consequently, the extended due date for your response will be 8 June 2021.

The extension is required because of the consultations needed to make a decision on your request. Despite the extension, a response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

 Sarah Corbett
Manager, Ministerial and Business Services