



14 June 2021

Mr Tobias Tohill

fyi-request-15503-c6b47c69@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA 2021-2332

Dear Mr Tohill,

Thank you for your email submitted via the FYI website on 19 May 2021, to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

"I write to request Official Information providing details of the status, timeline and execution of the current review of the Skilled Migrant Category, as referred to in Minister Nash's speech on Monday 17th 2021.

This request includes Official Information such as (but not limited to):

- *Briefing notes to the Minister of Immigration (excluding the Briefing for the Incoming Minister of Immigration, dated November 2020)*
- *Frame of reference for the review and/or goals or targets or objectives*
- *Directives to MBIE staff / INZ officials on policy areas to review*
- *Desired effect or outcome on net migration levels*
- *Recommendations to the Minister or his delegates on the scope the review should take - Memos, notes, lists or reports on policy areas to be review and/or focused on*
- *Memos, notes, lists or reports on policy areas to be excluded or not with the ambit of the review*
- *Implementation timelines or guidance for the review and its outcome*
- *Start date of the review, as decided or proposed*
- *Expected timeframe or end date of the review, as decided or proposed*
- *Expected effect or outcome on net migration levels."*

In response to your question about timing of the Skilled Migrant Category review, it will begin in late 2021. However I am refusing the rest of your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and official. I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Craig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Craig
Manager, Immigration (Skills and Residence) Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment