



28 June 2021

Anson Zhao

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OIA: 2021-2423

Dear Anson

Thank you for your email of 31 May requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *A copy of the draft policy of the new Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV).*

Briefings regarding the Accredited Employer Work Visa policy

Please find attached the following documents in response to your request:

Document Number	Document Reference	Document Title
1	2021-2254	Employer-assisted temporary work visa reforms – employer gateway proposals
2	2021-1519	Transitional approach to the upcoming employer assisted temporary work visa reforms

Some information in these documents has been redacted under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

A further briefing on the proposed job check and migrant worker check settings has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), as the briefing is still under active consideration. We anticipate that the detailed job and migrant worker check settings will be announced publicly in late July or August.

Officials do not consider that there are public interest grounds that outweigh redactions made under section 9 of the Act.

We have also included NZCTU's feedback provided to MBIE as part of the consultation process on briefing 2021-2254, to provide context to the statements made throughout briefing 2021-2254 that reference NZCTU.

Federated Farmers of New Zealand also wish to clarify the following statements from briefing 2021-2254:

1. *Dairy NZ and Federated Farmers noted that the farming industry will likely seek to recoup some of the additional compliance costs by increasing the amount they charge their workers for housing. [paragraph 73 refers]*

Federated Farmers of New Zealand advise that "Housing is often undervalued by farmer employers in the employment package. We are strongly encouraging farmers to include the full market value of the housing that they provide to ensure that employees are aware of the total value of their employment package, and for migrant employees this will help to help meet the \$25.50 per hour requirement to be eligible for a 3 year visa."

2. *Dairy NZ and Federated Farmers expect that most farmers with more than five workers on an employer-assisted temporary work visa will restructure their businesses so that they are no longer considered high-volume employers. [paragraph 75 refers]*

Federated Farmers of New Zealand advise that "We understand a small number of farming businesses (circa 20?) will be captured under the proposed high-volume category. Given that many of these larger employers will be several farms run under one business, we considered it may be possible to operate each of these farms as individual entities."

As you may already be aware, the accreditation standards and release date for the new policy were announced on 7 May and the details are available here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/employ-migrants/introducing-new-accreditation-and-single-work-visa/employer-leads-visa-application-process>.

We trust you will find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of MBIE's response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or you can freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Craig

Manager

Immigration (Skills and Residence) Policy

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment