



28 June 2021

Vivek

fyi-request-15720-9a67075f@requests.fyi.org.nz

OIA: 2021-2506

Dear Vivek,

Thank you for your request of 5 March, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for the following information:

- "1. How is INZ planning to restore the life of migrant who lost time on ioen work visa.*
- 2. How is INZ planning to be fair to people who got stuck out side the country due to border closure.*
- 3. When is INZ planning to take a decision.*
- 4. What should a person do till INZ takes a decision.*
- 5. How should a person manage rent and finance till INZ takes a decision*
- 6. What was the mistake of a migrant who flew outside when borders were not closed.*
- 7. Whats should a person do if they lost visa as the employer fired them due to border closure?"*

While I am unable to comment on your individual circumstances, I can provide you with some information that you might find useful.

Offshore visa holders

The Government has closed the borders to help manage the public health risk of COVID-19 to New Zealanders. Current border restrictions allow New Zealand citizens and residents to return to New Zealand, as well as critical workers and limited groups of temporary visa holders for humanitarian or family reasons.

While I appreciate that there are many groups wishing to enter who would add value to New Zealand, the Government needs to prioritise entry to New Zealand due to capacity constraints in managed isolation facilities. This means critical workers are limited to a small group, including those who offer unique experience and technical or specialist skills not readily obtainable in New Zealand.

Further information on the border exception criteria can be found here:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/border-closures-and-exceptions/entry-to-new-zealand/critical-purpose-reasons-you-can-travel-to-new-zealand>.

The Government is continuously looking at whether the exception categories are fit for purpose. However, capacity to isolate and quarantine new arrivals to protect New Zealanders is limited.

Offshore work visa holders with expiring visas who do not meet border exception criteria are likely to need to re-apply for visas once the border reopens. Previous holders of a Post Study Work Visa will need to test their eligibility under other available visa categories, as they cannot reapply for a Post Study Work Visa.

I trust you will find the 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 freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Hutchison". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kirsty Hutchison
Manager, Immigration (Border and Funding) Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment