



20 October 2021

Ref: DOIA 2122-0692

Adam Irish

Email: fyi-request-16839-1bbf8844@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Adam

Thank you for your email of 22 September 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I request under the Official Information Act on what basis is the justification for not prioritising New Zealand Citizens over New Zealand Residents and New Zealand Permanent Residence in the spaces in MIQ and returning to New Zealand. Does not New Zealand under Human rights and UN conventions have an immediate obligation to its own citizens first and over that of other nationals. Why are New Zealand residents and permanent residents being allowed to compete and as a consequent crowd out and disadvantage New Zealand Citizens with regards to having a place in MIQ and the ability to return to New Zealand.

Additionally I request the rational why New Zealand Citizens and Permanent residents based in Australian where reincluded in the last MIQ allocation. New Zealand Citizens in countries outside of Australia have immediate visa requirements that they can risk breaching if they cannot return to New Zealand which citizens of other countries do not have. This risk does not apply to New Zealand Citizens in Australia due to our Special Category Status which allows permanent stays their.

Lastly I request does MBIE and the government have a strategy to have sufficient MIQ places to deal with the demand shown in the last MIQ allocation. And what is the timeframe that they expect to address this backlog by.

I am writing to notify you the Ministry is extending the timeframe for responding to your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

We are experiencing a large volume of Official Information Act requests, and additionally we entered a period with the COVID-19 lockdowns that affected normal business systems. This necessitated subject matter experts within the organisation prioritising work most closely relating to the delivery/support of Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities and the community outbreak, which is ongoing.

As such, an extension is necessary to complete consultations with all relevant parties. We will now respond to your request on or before 26 November 2021, however we will endeavour to respond to you sooner.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline Cooke', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jacqueline Cooke
Team Leader, Ministerial Services
Managed Isolation and Quarantine