



A KS

fyi-request-18742-ed303f5f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2122-1721

Dear A KS,

Thank you for your email of 1 March 2022 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

“1:- Is there any ongoing work for reviewing this threshold as it has not changed since 9 years .It was 25,000 NZD before 26/11/2012 when it was changed to 41,000 NZD. Can you provide any documentation regarding the review of this threshold since 2020?

2:-If a review is ongoing, when it is expected to be completed and threshold updated?

3:-If there is no ongoing work, can you tell is there a plan for 2022 or later to get this reviewed by INZ health team?”

Our Response

In your request you referenced a letter sent by the former Minister of Immigration dated 11 March 2020, which stated that Immigration New Zealand (INZ) would be working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to review the \$41,000 threshold for high-cost health conditions in the latter half of 2020. Since this date, the MoH has increased its focus on the response to COVID-19 and supporting the health sector to manage the virus in the community. The high-cost health condition review requires significant data collection, health expertise and analysis, and will need to source information from District Health Boards regarding costs, patient data and health services, and to source other information such as pharmaceutical data. INZ and the MoH are required to work together to progress the review, however, progress has been limited due to the availability of resources given the current environment.

The responses to your specific questions are below:

1. Is there any ongoing work for reviewing this threshold as it has not changed since 9 years. It was 25,000 NZD before 26/11/2012 when it was changed to 41,000 NZD. Can you provide any documentation regarding the review of this threshold since 2020?

In 2020, INZ and the MoH began work to review the INZ list of medical conditions which are deemed likely to impose significant costs and/or demands on New Zealand’s health services and/or special education services. The current list can be found here: [Operational Manual - Immigration New Zealand. Issue Date: 21 February 2022](#)[Operational Manual - Immigration New Zealand. Issue Date: 22 August 2016](#)

The medical conditions on this list are conditions which have been determined as being likely to impose costs exceeding the threshold of \$41,000. The threshold of \$41,000 is subject to review – the review of the list and the threshold are interdependent and this work has been delayed due to the circumstances described above. One area of review that has been completed was the review of the inclusion of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection on the list of medical conditions. HIV was subsequently removed from the list in October 2021.

2. If a review is ongoing, when it is expected to be completed and threshold updated?

INZ is unable to confirm a timeframe for completion of a review of the threshold at this time. The review of the threshold and the list of medical conditions is substantive work and is currently progressing as resources and competing demands allow.

3. If there is no ongoing work, can you tell is there a plan for 2022 or later to get this reviewed by INZ health team?

INZ and the MoH recognise the importance of this work. INZ is actively pursuing this, and further progress is expected on the review once there is capacity to provide the data and expertise required.

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.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,



Stephan Dunstan
General Manager Enablement
Immigration New Zealand