



25 May 2023

Saska Hayes  
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File No: DOIA 2223-2452

Dear Saska

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received on 27 April 2023 requesting the following information from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry):

- "1. Does Immigration New Zealand use algorithms to identify "high risk countries"?*
- 2. If yes, what elements does this algorithm consider to make these recommendations/decisions?"*

### **Our Response**

Immigration New Zealand does not use algorithms to identify "high risk countries" in its visa Triage or passenger arrivals process.

However, there are a range of risk controls, in addition to Triage, that are applied to visa applications that may lead to a visa application being assessed as high risk or requiring additional risk treatment. This could include referrals for third party checks or for specialist assessment.

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](http://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](mailto:INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,

Karen Sionzon  
National Manager Allocation & Support  
Verification and Compliance  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

