



21 December 2023

Ziyun (Evan) Wang  
[fyi-request-24410-35febe24@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24410-35febe24@requests.fyi.org.nz)

DOIA 2324-0810

Tēnā koe Ziyun

Thank you for your email of 11 October 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I am writing to kindly request copies of the most recent assessment templates and training materials for Immigration Officers to follow when assessing the current Onshore and Offshore Student Visa applications.*

On 9 November 2023, MBIE sent you a letter noting that we had decided to extend the period of time available to respond under section 15A(1)(a) of the Act as the request is for a large quantity of information and a proper response could not be reasonably made within the original time limit.

### **Our response**

We apologise for the delay in responding to your request, due to the large quantity of information requiring review as part of your request.

The attached appendices contain the information you have requested. In the materials provided, the case studies included depict realistic scenarios, the applicants and associated information are for training purposes only and do not reflect Immigration New Zealand (INZ) views on individuals and entities mentioned. Some case studies have been redacted in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

The request you have made under the Act identified some training material that was produced locally and intended to supplement INZ approved training for immigration officers (IOs). While the written content is accurate the tone and graphics of some slides are not appropriate. We have acted on concerns we had about this material, which is not in line with MBIE and INZ values or code of conduct and the material is not in use.

Please also note that where the training materials mention a “decline quota”, this is referring to a set number of decisions that must be sent for quality assurance, rather than a set number of decisions that must be declined. INZ does not have decline quotas.

I have considered whether withholding that information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available, in accordance with section 9(1) of the OIA, however it is my opinion that such grounds do not exist. Some information has also been marked as out



of scope of the request. In reviewing the documentation in this request, I have used the following sections of the Act to withhold information:

- 6(c) as making available that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial;
- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

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)

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Celia Coombes', is positioned above the printed name.

Celia Coombes  
Director Visa - Students  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment