

28 June 2011

Department of Labour

TE TARI MAHI



Joshua Grainger
mailto:fyi-request-249-88efe2ae@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: 12/03331

Dear Joshua Grainger

I am writing in reply to your Official Information request of 23 May 2012, requesting certain information. I apologise for the delay in the response to you. Your requests (in italics) and responses are set out below.

1) the list of countries from which applications from are automatically sent to IPG.

This information has been withheld in reliance on section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

2) the number of immigration requests which have been sent to IPG in the last year, along with the number declined. For comparison I would like the number of immigration requests, along with the number of declines as a whole for the last year.

Your request has been refused in reliance on section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist and is not collected in a way that can be collated to answer your question. However, statistical information on the number of decisions made by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) branches is publically available from the INZ website
<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/statistics/>

3) the number of staff working for IPG, and their security clearance levels.

31.6 FTE positions sit within the IPG Branch. Information on the security clearance levels held by staff is withheld in reliance on section 6(a) of the OIA as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand and 9(2)(a) of the OIA in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

4) the process that IPG goes through in determining whether an application should be declined or approved, including what information is normally assessed.

It should be noted that the IPG process applications in the same manner as any other INZ branch – i.e. in accordance with the immigration instructions certified by the Minister of Immigration. This aspect of your request is therefore refused in reliance on section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information is publically available from the INZ website [http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/operational manual/](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/operationalmanual/)

5) any correspondence for the last year with between any member of the IPG and the NZSIS and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. If this is a large amount, then the titles and dates of any correspondence can be provided instead. If such correspondence is to be withheld I would still like a record of the amount of correspondence there has been.

Three letters have been located that fall within the scope of your request and they are withheld with reliance on section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the correspondence relates, in the case of two letters to individual staff employment matters and in the case of the third letter, to an individual visa application.

Other than the three letters that have been located, your request has been refused in reliance on section 18(f) of the OIA as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research as each individual application would need to be reviewed to ascertain if there is any information held which falls within the scope of your request.

6) as information about the IPG is quite sparse, I would like to request any operational manuals or guides about how IPG operates.

Your request has been refused in reliance on section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information is publically available from the INZ website [http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/operational manual/](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/operationalmanual/)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10-152
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg'.

Nicola Hogg
General Manager
Visa Services
for Secretary of Labour