



17 January 2024

John Luke

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DOIA 2324-1238

Tēnā koe John

Thank you for your email of 4 December 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

The embassies of eight of the 70 countries, namely the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Brazil, South Africa, Singapore, New Zealand and Israel, have authorized China CITIC Bank as the sole financial institution in the country to provide visa application fees payment and drop-off visa services. Within 15 working days, the bank can help its clients receive a visa that is valid for two to 10 years after they submitted application documents as required. Can you provide your agreement or anything similar with China CITIC Bank with regards to this service arrangement. Also, can you provide explanation on what it means of "Within 15 working days, the bank can help its clients receive a visa that is valid for two to 10 years after they submitted application documents as required." have you outsource the assessment to the China CITIC Bank?

Our Response

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not have a direct relationship with China CITIC bank and is not aware of any such agreement. Therefore, your request is being refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the requested information is not held by MBIE and we have no grounds for believing it is held by another department, interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

Jeannie Melville
Deputy Chief Operating Officer Immigration
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

