



6 March 2024

Chris

fyi-request-25642-54174c07@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2324-1666

Tēnā koe Chris

Thank you for your email of 7 February 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

*How many North Korea defectors living in New Zealand.
If a North Korea person escaped and come to New Zealand will they be sent back to North Korea or are they welcome here*

Our Response

Question: How many North Korea defectors living in New Zealand

On 16 February 2024, we attempted to contact you to clarify whether your request was relating to asylum claims made by North Korean nationals. We have not received a response from you to date.

We can advise that there are 8 North Korean nationals in New Zealand, as at 13 February 2024. MBIE does not hold information on whether visa holders living in New Zealand from North Korea (or any other country) are 'defectors' as this information is not collected by MBIE as part of the visa application process. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by MBIE, and we have no reason to believe that the information is held by another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

However, I can direct you to the Immigration and Protection Tribunal which publishes appeal decision information on 'defectors' from North Korea. The current location of these clients is not known.

[Refugee/Protection Decisions \(justice.govt.nz\)](https://justice.govt.nz/refugee-protection-decisions)

Question: If a North Korea person escaped and come to New Zealand will they be sent back to North Korea or are they welcome here

We note that this part of your request does not appear to be a request for official information as defined in section 2 of the Act. However, we can advise that in order for a person to be able to enter New Zealand they must either be travelling from a visa wavier country and hold a valid New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) or hold an appropriate valid visa. People attempting to enter New Zealand without proper authorisation may be refused entry upon arrival.

The Immigration New Zealand website contains information on the requirements for all foreign nationals before travelling to New Zealand: [Before you travel to New Zealand | Immigration New Zealand](#).

North Korean nationals who meet visa requirements and are granted visas are entitled to stay in New Zealand under the conditions of the visa they hold.

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, or if you require any further assistance, please contact inzoias@mbie.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeannie Melville". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

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