



31 May 2024

C Bennett

fyi-request-26104-00b1b968@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2324-2023

Tēnā koe C Bennett

Thank you for your email of 15 March to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *All correspondence between Immigration New Zealand and NZ Ethical Employers*
- *All correspondence between Immigration New Zealand and Tanya Pouwhare*
- *All correspondence between Immigration New Zealand and Mike Chapman*
- *Dates and times of meetings between Immigration New Zealand and NZ Ethical Employers, if any occurred*
- *Minutes and notes from meetings between Immigration New Zealand and NZ Ethical Employers, if any meetings occurred.*

For avoidance of doubt, 'correspondence' refers to letters, emails, texts, whatsapp messages, and phone calls.

The time period for this request is 01 October 2023 to 15 March 2024.

On 12 April 2024 we advised you that MBIE had decided to extend the period of time available to make a decision on your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as the request necessitates a search through a large quantity of information and required consultation. Accordingly, a proper response to your request could not be reasonably made within the original time limit. We had advised you that MBIE will notify you of a decision on your request no later than 24 May 2024. I apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

Our Response

Please see attached appendices containing the requested correspondence, as well as minutes and notes from meetings between Immigration New Zealand (INZ) and New Zealand Ethical Employers. Copies of call logs and text messages provided in this response were between New Zealand Ethical Employers and Loua Ward, National Manager – Pacific.



Between 1 October 2023 and 15 March 2024 INZ attended routine fortnightly meetings with New Zealand Ethical Employers across the following dates and times:

- 4 October – 8 December 2023, 10.00-11.00 am;
- 18 January 2024, 12.00-1.30 pm; and
- 8 February – 7 March 2024, 10.00-11.00 am.

Between 1 October 2023 and 15 March 2024 INZ also attended routine fortnightly meetings with industry stakeholders, including New Zealand Ethical Employers, across the following dates and times:

- 2 October – 11 December 2024, 10.00-10.30 am; and
- 22 January – 4 March 2024, 10.00-10.30 am.

A further meeting took place between 9.30-10.00 am on 27 October 2023.

Given the breadth of the request, the information was collated via a records search (manually filtered to only include correspondence to/from INZ) and manual collation.

Information out of scope has been removed and some parts of the information have been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(ba)(i) to protect information subject to an obligation of confidence
- 9(2)(b)(ii) to protect information where release would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; or
- 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

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 refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is, or will soon be, publicly available. This includes documents referenced on page 27 of Appendix A, 132 of Appendix D and 105 in Appendix E of the appendices and additional information below:

- Amendment Circulars sent to New Zealand Ethical Employers from INZ – these can be accessed online here: [Resource library | Immigration New Zealand](#)
- New Zealand Ethical Employer newsletters available online at: [Newsletter | NZ Ethical Employers \(nzee.nz\)](#)
- Recognised Seasonal Employer policy interagency understandings between New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Samoa. These will soon be published online on MBIE's website.

I note additional comments about this release below:

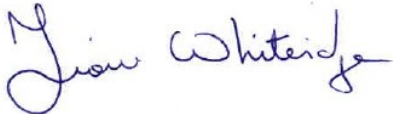
- Page 32 of Appendix B: The Kiribati translation contains two errors relating to Tuatua Fire and Tuatua Police. It should read: Tuatua nakon Fire and Tuatua nakon Police; and
- Page 139 of Appendix B: The translation supplied was developed through a process of consultation and submission by the relevant Ministry in Fiji, coordinated through the Pacific liaison officer.

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.

Tanya Pouwhare, Chief Executive of New Zealand Ethical Employers, would also welcome any direct enquiries regarding the work of New Zealand Ethical Employers. She can be contacted at tanya@nzee.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fiona Whiteridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fiona Whiteridge
General Manager Refugee and Migrant Services
Refugee and Migrant Services
Immigration New Zealand