



19 JUN 2015

John Harpley
fyi-request-2806-7265d319@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA 1494

Dear Mr Harpley

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) received at the Associate Minister of Immigration's office on 4 June 2015 requesting the following information:

- *Are Sponsors of visa applicants, under the Sponsorship Program, considered clients in any way to Immigration New Zealand. If so, do they have rights with regards information from Immigration New Zealand re these visa applications.*

Our response

When any individual is recorded in Immigration New Zealand's (INZ) electronic Application Management System (AMS) they are allocated a client id number so they are considered to be a client. In terms of the visa application process, once an application is submitted to INZ the individual becomes an 'applicant'.

If INZ receives an application that has a sponsor, the sponsor is seen as a client because they have a client id number. A sponsor does have the right to any information about them that is held on the application.

Sponsors *do not* have the right to all information that is held on the application unless the applicant, who submitted the application, has provided INZ with authorisation to release the information to the sponsor.

Any such requests can be made to INZ under the Privacy Act 1993.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Penny Hazlett at penny.hazlett@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

 Geoff Scott
Assistant General Manager – Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

