

6 November 2015

PASSPORTS  
Uruwhenua

109 Featherston Street  
PO Box 1568, Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
Freephone 0800 22 50 50  
Facsimile +64 4 382 3410  
Website www.dia.govt.nz

W Shih  
FYI.Org  
[fyi-request-3215-9d041d3f@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-3215-9d041d3f@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear W Shih,

Thank you for the Official Information Act request received 13 October 2015 in which you asked: *I would like to know how many specimen passports are issued out to foreign agencies (government or private). Including when and who (agency name and/or country) it is issued to.*

The Department of Internal Affairs (**Department**) has issued 287 specimen passport packs to foreign agencies since November 2011. Specimen packs contain a specimen set of travel documents issued by the Department, including passports. In addition to this, the Department has provided 58 additional specimen passports.

The Department has issued specimen passport packs to the following types of foreign agencies:

- Countries that have an embassy in Wellington, or Canberra, Australia.
- Border, customs and enforcement agencies.
- Private sector companies that are associated with the security of New Zealand travel documents.
- Keesing Technologies, who maintain a comprehensive exemplar identity document database and provide identity document authentication services.

The Department is withholding more specific information as to the recipients of the specimen passport packs under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the release of the information is likely to prejudice the security, defence and/or international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Thank you,



**David Philp** | General Manager  
Te Mata Uruwhenua | Identity and Passport Services  
Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

