

23 FEB 2017
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Dear Jason

Official Information Act 1982 request 1617-0192

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (Act) request, which was received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 25 January 2017.

You requested

- 1) Please advise whether Peter Thiel was granted New Zealand citizenship under the "special cases" provision.*
- 2) If he was granted citizenship under the "special cases" provision, please advise the special case cited in this circumstance.*
- 3) And please advise why citizenship, as opposed to residency, was approved. And if OIA issues were part of the reason for that choice*

In respect of the first and second parts of your request:

The Department has chosen to proactively release the information you have requested. Accordingly, we are now declining your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information is now publicly available. The information can be viewed here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Citizenship-of-Mr-Peter-Thiel>

In regard to the third part of your request:

The Department is responsible for the assessment of applications for New Zealand citizenship. Applications for Residence and Permanent Residence must be made to Immigration New Zealand, part of the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, as they are the agency responsible for granting this status. As Mr Thiel submitted a citizenship application to the Department of Internal Affairs, we evaluated his application as such, and in accordance with the Citizenship Act 1977.

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 would like to discuss your request further, please email OIA@dia.govt.nz with your contact details, and we can arrange a time for us to call you.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden
Manager Business Improvement and Support
Births Deaths Marriages Citizenship and Translations