



**19 MAR 2018**

J L Fairburn

[fyi-request-7246-9c3b9602@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7246-9c3b9602@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear J L Fairburn

Thank you for your email of 11 February 2018 with a query about the Government's approach to immigration policy and the impacts on net migration.

I am responding directly to the first point you raised in your email as no official information exists relating to that request. The second and third points you raised in your email have been transferred to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment as an official information request as the subject of these requests is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry. A response to those requests will be made directly by the Ministry.

This Government is committed to ensuring that New Zealanders are first in the job queue but where a genuine skill or labour shortage exists, New Zealand businesses can get the migrant workers they need.

As a priority I am seeking to make changes which better support the needs of regions. I think more can and should be done to ensure the immigration system is set up to allow overseas workers to fill real skill and labour gaps in the regions. As a first step, I want to see regional skills and labour shortages lists and have asked officials to work up some options which can then be developed with businesses, workers and other local partners.

I am confident that a more region-specific approach to skill and labour shortages will also help with planning and delivery of local solutions to labour market needs, so industries can respond appropriately, in the first instance. This Government is also focused on better coordination from government - between the education and training, welfare and immigration systems. While this is not going to be fixed quickly, I expect that, over time we will see less reliance on migrants and more New Zealanders employed in some parts of the workforce.

When developing the Labour Party Immigration policy in Opposition, we anticipated that the changes we planned to make could reduce net migration by 20-30,000, however this is an estimated result of our policy changes and is not a specific target.

I trust this information is useful to you and thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iain Lees-Galloway', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
**Minister of Immigration**