



22 February 2019

Ref: DOIA 1819 - 1107

Nicholas Johnson

Email: fyi-request-9460-945959d4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nicholas Johnson

Thank you for your email of 28 January 2019 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information (I have numbered each item of information requested for ease of reference further below):

"Please provide the following information in relation to Visitor, Work, and Residency visas:

1. In each visa category, the percentage of visa applicants who disclosed a physical health issue as part of the visa process.
2. In each visa category, the percentage of visa applications for which the applicant was asked to provide a professional assessment relating to their physical health in addition to the normal requirements.
3. In each visa category, the percentage of visa applications that were denied on physical health grounds.
4. In each visa category, the percentage of visa applications that were approved, but with a condition that a further physical health assessment be made in any extension or renewal process.
5. In each visa category, the percentage of applicants who disclosed a mental health issue as part of the visa process.
6. In each visa category, the percentage of visa applications for which the applicant was asked to provide a professional assessment relating to their mental health in addition to the normal requirements.
7. In each visa category, the percentage of visa applications that were denied on mental health grounds.
8. In each visa category, the percentage of visa applications that were approved, but with a condition that a further mental health assessment be made in any extension or renewal process.
9. Additionally, please provide the following information in relation to work visas: - For granted visas whose maximum period is 24 months or greater, a breakdown of the requested duration, granted duration, and number of visas issued."

You have not specified with due particularity a period of time for which you are seeking the requested information. A timeframe such as the previous calendar year (ie. January 2018 to December 2018) may enable aspects of your request to be responded to. An open-ended non-specified timeframe will require substantive collation to find and collate the information and will likely result in the Ministry refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

Irrespective of the time frame, with regards to item 7 requested above, it is likely that the Ministry will refuse this request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. Immigration New Zealand records and assesses visa applications in Immigration New Zealand's Application Management System (AMS). When the determination criteria for an application is entered into AMS, the health determination criteria

is listed only as to whether the applicant has an acceptable standard of health or not. The specific health issue is not recorded in a manner which allows for automated reporting from AMS. The only way to identify whether a mental health matter was the overriding health concern resulting in the decline of an application would be to manually review each and every visa application. This would be likely to have a significant impact on the ability of the Ministry to carry out its other operations.

Irrespective of the time frame, with regards to item 8 requested above, it is likely that the Ministry will refuse this request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. When Immigration New Zealand records the outcomes of immigration health assessments, those visa applicants who are required to provide updated health information with their next visa application, are recorded as having an 'ASH with conditions' outcome ['ASH' is an abbreviated term for having an acceptable standard of health]. The specific health information the applicant is required to provide is not recorded in a manner which allows for automated reporting from AMS. The only way to identify whether further mental health information is required would be to manually review each and every visa application. This would be likely to have a significant impact on the ability of the Ministry to carry out its other operations.

The Ministry invites you to narrow or clarify your request, particularly in relation to particularising the timeframe you are seeking information for. In anticipation that you will provide a timeframe for the information you are seeking, the Ministry needs to extend the timeframe within which to respond to your request. The reason for the extension is that your request is for a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Ministry. The Ministry's response will be with you no later than 25 March 2019.

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.

Yours sincerely



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Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment