



Sarah Brown

fyi-request-11437-54e778b1@requests.fyi.org.nz
1920 - 0631

File No: DOIA

Dear Sarah Brown

Thank you for your email of 11 October 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

How many 'low skilled' migrants on temporary visas will face the stand down period and be required to leave NZ in 2020?

Please provide this information, along with a table showing a break down of length of stay in NZ for the migrants that will face stand down e.g. 3 - 4 years in NZ (200 people), 4 - 5 years in NZ (500 people), 5 - 6 years in NZ (700 people), 6 - 7 years in NZ (X amount of people)

Our response

An Essential Skills (ES) work visa for lower-skilled employment is valid for up to 12 months, with a maximum total stay of 36 months. Thereafter, a 12-month stand down period applies before an individual can apply for another ES work visa in lower-skilled employment.

As at 30 September 2019, there were 3786 people who first held an ES work visa allowing work in lower-skilled employment in 2017 and whose current ES work visa in lower employment expires in 2020.

Your request has been refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial collation to identify how many of the 3786 individuals will face a stand down period and be required to leave NZ by 2020 and how long these migrants have been in New Zealand for.

This is because it is not possible to capture this information as there are many factors which can affect the data leading up to 2020, such as the person leaving the country before the stand down applies, or the person who held a lower-skilled visa being granted a visa of a different category.

To provide you with copies of the information would require staff to manually review each of the 3786 applications to identify the requested information. Providing this information would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have

concluded that, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Ileini Taloa, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at ileini.taloa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Hogg', is positioned above the printed name.

Nicola Hogg

General Manager Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment