



10 June 2020

James Atkinson

fyi-request-12881-46e23c34@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1920-1646

Dear James,

Thank you for your email 25 May 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

I would like to make a FOI request on the details of the sharing of biometric data between NZ and its 5 Eyes partners (Australia, Canada, the US, UK), for immigration purposes or otherwise. Please provide information on the following points:

- 1. Is biometric data collected from NZ visa or residency applicants (including but not limited to fingerprints, photographs, DNA, etc.) currently being shared on a systematic or case by case basis between NZ and its 5 Eyes Partners? Systematic sharing would mean data of all applicants would be shared automatically, without any selection criteria.*
- 2. Please provide any statistics, if available (e.g. number of queries sent to each country per year)*
- 3. If the sharing of biometric data is not systematic, please provide details of the procedures and criteria that apply. For example, how does NZ select the cases that it wants to make queries on?*
- 4. Please provide details on all relevant regulations or agreements/MoUs that are either already in force, or currently being planned but not yet in force.*

This letter is to notify you that the Ministry will provide a response but needs to extend the time available to answer your request. The Ministry's response will be with you no later than 23 July 2020.

The reason for the extension is that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot be made within the original time limit.

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.

A response will be provided to you sooner if we are able to.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Cummings
Manager Business Support, Intelligence Data and Insights
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment