

11 July 2014

Jay Maxwell
fyi-request-1740-ddc105b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jay Maxwell

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 which was transferred from the Department of Internal Affairs to Inland Revenue on 11 June 2014. You requested:

In 2013 it was reported that it was being examined whether people who default on their student loans will face not having their passports renewed. I would like to request under the Official Information Act:

** all advice on whether people who default on their student loans shouldn't have their passports renewed. Especially given any changes under the Student Loan Scheme Amendment Act 2014.*

I am particularly interested in any human rights considerations, given that Minister Dunne stated "There are also some disadvantages about what you might describe broadly as human rights issues - the rights of New Zealanders to a passport, but it certainly has been looked at, yes." I would like to request any information pertaining to freedom of movement, potential statelessness or potential illegal immigration statuses of NZ citizens refused passport renewal in other nations.

I would like to know of any policy changes since your OIA reply here:<https://fyi.org.nz/request/898-advice-on-refusal-to-renew-passports-of-studentloan-defaulters>.

In the event that any documents are withheld I would like to request the dates and titles of the documents.

I would prefer to receive an electronic response. Queries about this request will be automatically forwarded to me by the fyi.org.nz website.

I note you reference a request made by Mr Grainger through the FYI website that is very similar to your request. The response to Mr Grainger, provided all of the information within the scope of your request. There are no additional documents that can be provided. As this information is already publicly available your request is declined under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982.

The option of non-renewal of passports for student loan defaulters has not been considered further since our reply to Mr Grainger. Accordingly, there have been no relevant policy changes.

This response fully covers the information you have requested.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. The office of the Ombudsmen can be contacted at PO Box 10152, The Terrace, Wellington 6143.

Alternatively, you may have the decision reviewed by a review officer. Choosing the internal right of review does not preclude you from subsequently seeking a review by the Ombudsman should you be dissatisfied with the department's internal review. If an internal review is sought, please write to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, PO Box 2198, Wellington 6140, setting out the details of your complaint.

Thank you for your request. I trust my response is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Maurice Lawlor
Business Owner

