



14 May 2024

Ethan Harwood

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DOIA 2324-2264

Tēnā koe Ethan

Thank you for your email of 15 April 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

1. *Detailed Breakdown of Medical Waivers Issued under Parent Resident Category*
 - a. *Please provide the total number of medical waivers issued from December 2023 to April 2024, broken down by month.*

2. *Training Materials and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – Medical Waivers*
 - a. *I request all relevant internal training materials, SOPs, and documents utilised for Medical Waivers by case officers, immigration managers, and technical advisors. This includes but is not limited to:*
 - i. *Internal guidelines detailing how weighting criteria are applied during Family Stream visa considerations.*
 - ii. *Examples and/ or examples from training materials for employees that demonstrate instances where positive criteria outweigh negative [health] implications.*
 - iii. *Any internal guidance documents/instructions that ensure assessments by technical advisors and immigration managers are not subjective for the weighting analysis. Include any learnings from cases that have been to the Immigration tribunal that may be used as training.*
 - b. *Please provide explicit confirmation as to whether there are any caps or quantitative limits placed on the number of medical waivers issued under any Resident Visa Category. This request includes, but is not limited to:*
 - i. *Any yearly, monthly, or category-specific caps that dictate the maximum number of medical waivers that can be approved.*
 - ii. *Any documentation or policy guidelines that describe the rationale and conditions under which these caps are implemented.**This information is essential for understanding the administrative constraints and policy frameworks that govern the issuance of medical waivers, ensuring transparency in how these limitations might affect applicants.*

4. *I seek all [up-to-date] internal guidelines used by medical assessors and/or medical officers pertaining to the assessment of;*
 - a. *Cardiomyopathy (including guidance issued to MA's around reversible cardiomyopathy)*
 - b. *Hypertension*
 - c. *Atrial fibrillation*

Our Response

Question 1: *Detailed Breakdown of Medical Waivers Issued under Parent Resident Category*

a. Please provide the total number of medical waivers issued from December 2023 to April 2024, broken down by month.

Table: The total number of Parent Resident Visas approved between 1 December 2023 and 17 April 2024 with a medical requirement question waived, broken down by decision month, as at 17 April 2024.

Decision Month	Total
December 2023	3
January 2024	2
February 2024	2
March 2024	3
April 2024	1
Total	11

Question 2a: *I request all relevant internal training materials, SOPs, and documents utilised for Medical Waivers by case officers, immigration managers, and technical advisors. This includes but is not limited to: i. Internal guidelines detailing how weighting criteria are applied during Family Stream visa considerations. ii. Examples and/ examples from training materials for employees that demonstrate instances where positive criteria outweigh negative [health] implications. iii. Any internal guidance documents/instructions that ensure assessments by technical advisors and immigration managers are not subjective for the weighting analysis. Include any learnings from cases that have been to the Immigration tribunal that may be used as training.*

Please refer to Appendix One for the information requested. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

Question 2b: *Please provide explicit confirmation as to whether there are any caps or quantitative limits placed on the number of medical waivers issued under any Resident Visa Category. This request includes, but is not limited to: i. Any yearly, monthly, or category-specific caps that dictate the maximum number of medical waivers that can be approved. ii. Any documentation or policy guidelines that describe the rationale and conditions under which these caps are implemented. This information is essential for understanding the administrative constraints and policy frameworks that govern the issuance of medical waivers, ensuring transparency in how these limitations might affect applicants.*

There are no caps or limits placed on the number of medical waivers that can be granted.

Question 4: *I seek all [up-to-date] internal guidelines used by medical assessors and/or medical officers pertaining to the assessment of; a. Cardiomyopathy (including guidance issued to MA's around reversible cardiomyopathy) b. Hypertension c. Atrial fibrillation*

Please refer to Appendix Two for the information requested. Please note that this document is regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects current information concerning medical assessments and will soon be updated to reflect the increase to the cost threshold from \$41,000 to \$81,000, which determines whether an applicant's medical condition is likely to impose significant costs on New Zealand's health services.

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 inzoias@mbie.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Bishop', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Karen Bishop
General Manager
Service Design and Implementation
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment