



27 May 2024

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Matt via FYI

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Tēnā koe Matt

### **OIA request 23/24 0915 Request for Citizenship Online Application Information**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 29 April 2024.

You requested –

- *Please can you advise if selecting yes to having criminal convictions would automatically not make you eligible to be granted Citizenship through the automated systems?*

In response to your request, I must advise that the information must be withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(k) of the Act. This is because the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Applicants for New Zealand citizenship by grant (except those under the Citizenship (Western Samoa) Act 1982) must be of good character. It is important that applicants provide true, accurate and full information. It is an offence to provide false information for the purposes of obtaining New Zealand citizenship by grant.

It may be useful for you to know that external checks are undertaken during the processing of an application. Regardless of the workstream an application is in, all applications (except those under the Citizenship (Western Samoa) Act 1982 or are under 14 years of age) undergo compulsory manual checks for the good character requirement.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2>.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julia Taylor  
Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence  
Service Delivery and Operations