



30 January 2025

OIA: 25-353

Adam Irish
fyi-request-29763-79c09195@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Adam,

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2025, in which you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. Whether New Zealand's current unemployment rates are taken into account when determining residency targets.*
- 2. Whether the number of new building consents, relative to New Zealand's net total population growth, is considered to prevent further strain on the housing market.*
- 3. How these factors are balanced to ensure that house prices do not rise disproportionately and that New Zealanders are not further disadvantaged in terms of housing affordability and the ability to raise families.*

On 30 January 2024, my office advised you that questions 2 and 3 of your request had been transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, as these questions were more closely related to the functions of the ministry.

When the previous Government introduced the new Skilled Migrant Category in 2023, they made the decision to process skilled residence applications 'to demand', with no caps on places available. This applied to all skilled residence visas (which includes residence applications made under the Skilled Migrant Category, Green List and Sector Agreements).

This decision replaced the previous "planning range" which set an indicative number of residence places available each year. The previous planning range was useful to manage the number of people gaining residence in New Zealand each year, but it often prevented people with valuable skills from gaining residence, as many more people were eligible for residence under the previous settings than there were places available.

As there are no residence targets, I am refusing question 1 under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erica Stanford'.

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Immigration