



8 May 2026

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0025745

Agnes Fecher

Email: fyi-request-33334-84d7ffc6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Agnes

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2025 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *Any reports, assessments, briefings, or analytical material held by MBIE that discuss the presence, prevalence, or risk of extremist ideologies in New Zealand comparable to those publicly attributed to the Bondi [beach attack] attacker, insofar as those views are characterised in official reporting as violent, extremist, or posing a threat to public safety.*
2. *Any high-level estimates, trend analyses, or qualitative assessments (whether quantitative or descriptive) held by MBIE regarding the number or proportion of individuals in New Zealand assessed as holding such views, where such information already exists.*
3. *Any definitions, frameworks, or criteria used by MBIE to categorise or assess such ideologies for policy, regulatory, or public-safety purposes.*
4. *Any inter-agency communications, briefings, or advice to Ministers prepared by MBIE following the Bondi [beach attack] that reference implications, parallels, or relevance to New Zealand.*

We also note the clarification you provided in your email of 10 February 2026:

"I just want to clarify that my request is around the Bondi Beach attack, not Bondi Junction. Additionally, to help you further locate a source for the information contained in the OIA, I'd like the Ministry to identify data as it pertains to Immigration and the identification of ideologies held by immigrants.

Context: It's important to note that just like the Christchurch attacker, the Bondi Beach Gunmen brought extremist ideologies with them from overseas. I'd like any information we have around this contemporarily important issue, for example how we identify extremist ideologies and values held immigrants, and how we are dealing with it."

Decision and high-level context

In our 10 March 2026 letter, we notified you of our decision on your request for information. The attached documents, and context below, provides further narrative to your request.

In line with the above, we have interpreted your request as asking broadly about extremism in New Zealand, rather than a particular form of extremism based on a specific belief, motivation or ideology. Our determinations regarding whether documents identified are in scope or out of scope have been informed by this wide interpretation of your request.



Question 1

As background, after the March 15 terror attack the New Zealand Government began work on and in 2022, launched the Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism strategy. MBIE's role under this strategy is through the work of Immigration New Zealand (INZ), one of MBIE's business groups. INZ's role within the wider system is through the border with a focus on individuals seeking entry to New Zealand, rather than overall trends of extremism within the country.

MBIE has an intelligence function that is primarily focused on supporting INZ with its regulatory work, including acting as a liaison between MBIE and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) in regard to information about visa applicants who may pose a national security risk to New Zealand if they enter the country. Information about such individuals may come via a number of sources, including international partners, the NZSIS, or through internal mechanisms; further information on this is provided in our response to question three.

In responding to your request, we have identified intelligence assessments and reports that discuss the presence, prevalence, or risk of extremism within the New Zealand context (or risk to MBIE itself), and the risk MBIE needs to mitigate via the Immigration system.

The documents that accompany this letter are all related to question one. Some information, and one document in full, has been withheld under the following provisions of the Act:

- 6(a), as releasing the information would be likely to prejudice the international relations of the Government of New Zealand,
- 6(c), as releasing the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences within the Immigration system.
- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Regarding the withholding of information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

Partial transfer

We have identified some documents held by MBIE in scope of question one that are authored by other agencies. On 10 March 2026 we made a partial transfer of question one to the NZSIS under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as we believe the material is more closely connected with the functions of the NZSIS.

Question 2

After conducting a reasonable search, we have not identified any documents that detail high-level estimates, trend analyses, or qualitative assessment on the proportion of individuals who hold extremist views within the Immigration system or the New Zealand population in general. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

Question 3 & Clarification

The INZ Operational Manual, which contains the immigration instructions that people who want to come to New Zealand permanently or for a short time must follow, including the criteria they must meet, is publicly available here: www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#35439.htm.

The following sections in the manual have been identified relevant to your request, and we are therefore including specific links below for your information:

- Character requirements - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#35052.htm>

- Character checks - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#45181.htm>
- Police certificates - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#41439.htm>
- Summary of character requirements - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#35056.htm>
- Visa applicants must meet character requirements - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#35053.htm>
- Who must not be granted a visa or entry permission - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#35058.htm>
- Convictions, false information and other matters which may cause applicants not to meet character requirements for residence - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#35058.htm>
- Applicants normally ineligible for a residence or temporary entry class visa (risk to reputation) - <http://inzkit/publish/opsmanual/#35059.htm>

As part of the requirements for granting a visa or entry permission to New Zealand, applicants must be of good character; and not pose a potential security risk. This requirement is set out in Immigration Instruction A5.1 *Visa applicants must meet character requirements*: www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#35053.htm.

Immigration Instruction A5.20 details who must not be granted a visa or entry permission. This includes any person who is subject to section 16 of the Immigration Act 2009. This includes any person who the Minister has reason to believe:

- is likely to commit an offence in New Zealand that is punishable by imprisonment; or
- is, or is likely to be, a threat or risk to security; or
- is, or is likely to be, a threat or risk to public order; or
- is, or is likely to be, a threat or risk to the public interest; or
- is a member of a terrorist entity designated under the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

These provisions may apply where an applicant is deemed to hold views that are considered violent, extremist, or that would, or would be likely to, pose a threat to security (including public safety) or public order. The assessment of this is undertaken on a case-by-case basis by INZ officials who hold the necessary delegation with the information provided by the applicant, or the Minister and Associate Minister of Immigration.

In addition, there are provisions in the Immigration Instructions at A5.25(d) which state a person will not be granted a residence class visa if they:

- at any time in a public speech or public comments, or public broadcast, or in publicly distributing or publishing a document, argued that one race or colour is inherently inferior or superior to another race or colour; or used language intended to encourage hostility or ill will against any person or group of persons on the basis of colour, race or ethnic or national origins of that person or group; or
- have been, or are, a member of (or adheres or has adhered to) any organisation or group of people which (at the time of the person's membership or adherence) had objectives or principles based on:
 - hostility against people or groups of people on the basis of colour, race, or ethnic or national origins; or
 - an assumption that persons of a particular race or colour are inherently inferior or superior to other races or colours.

These provisions may apply where an applicant holds views that are considered violent or extremist.

National security checks for visa applicants

Some visa applicants are subject to national security checks by the NZSIS. The NZSIS provides advice and guidance to New Zealand border agencies on any actual or potential border-related threats, and threats from individuals who are seeking long and short-term visas for travel to New Zealand. There is further information about the national security check process for visa applicants here: [National security checks for visa applicants :: Immigration New Zealand](#)

Question 4

After conducting a reasonable search, we have not identified any interagency communications, briefings, or advice to Ministers prepared by MBIE that reference implications, parallels, or relevance to New Zealand following the Bondi Beach attack. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz. 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Ellis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacqui Ellis

General Manager Data, Insights and Intelligence
Data, Insights and Intelligence