



1 July 2026

Tobias Tohill

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DOIA-REQ-0034021

Tēnā koe Tobias,

Thank you for your email of 3 June 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

- 1. What constitutes 'independently verifiable evidence'*
- 2. What is not considered to 'independently verifiable evidence'*
- 3. Whether any such country profile information held by Immigration New Zealand should be referred to when immigration officers consider whether evidence provided constitutes sufficiently 'independently verifiable evidence' in their assessments of particular applications*
- 4. Standard Operating Procedures for AEW. Work Visa processing with regards to assessment of work evidence, including any definition or guide as to what constitutes verifiable evidence or independently verifiable evidence*

*For the avoidance of doubt, this request excludes all information publicly available on websites, including immigration instructions, published Visa Paks and guides.*

*Please feel free to contact me should you require any clarification of this request.*

We are extending the timeframe to respond to your request under section 15A(1)(a) of the Act as the request necessitates a search through a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of MBIE. We are extending the timeframe by 10 working days, to 16 July 2026, however will endeavour to respond earlier if possible.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

Katy Goodwin  
Manager Ministerial Services (Acting)  
Office of the Deputy Secretary Immigration  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

