



7 June 2017

DOIA 1617-0994

Keith Head  
[fyi-request-5438-72ec6c53@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5438-72ec6c53@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Head

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2017 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I would like to know the number of employees of Immigration NZ (employed either directly by Immigration NZ or indirectly through an agency) who process visa applications and who are themselves neither NZ citizens nor NZ residents.*

Upon application for a position with the Ministry, all candidates are required to confirm their right to work in the relevant country. Once offered a role, and prior to being appointed, a candidate must provide the Ministry with documentation that confirms this right to work.

For example, people entitled to work in New Zealand are those who:

- are New Zealand or Australian citizens (including people born in the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau), or
- have a New Zealand residence visa, or
- have a New Zealand work visa or a condition on their New Zealand temporary visa showing they are allowed to work here.

This documentation is retained on an employee's file, but is not recorded in a format that enables it to be collated. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. Providing this information would require reviewing individual employee records, which number in their hundreds.

I have considered whether fixing a charge or further extending the timeframe for responding to you would enable your request to be granted, but in my view it would not.

Where staff are employed through an agency using an All-of-Government contract, the Ministry requires the agency to ensure that a candidate is legally eligible to work within the relevant country.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to refuse your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone: 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

  
Kate Wareham  
General Manager Human Resources