



31 August 2018

GS

fyi-request-8363-4de40b15@requests.fyi.org

Dear GS

I refer to your official information request received by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on 21 July 2018, in which you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act): *"Referring to the Immigration Minister's response at the following website:*

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_11417_2018/11417-2018-hon-michael-woodhouse-to-the-immigration

stating "I have received one Briefing reporting on the outcomes of the review of the Parent Category Residence Visa."

- 1. Could you please share that briefing/report?*
- 2. Could you please also release any other 'reports' or 'results of reviews' of the parent category residence visa since it was temporary closed in 2016.*
- 3. The parent category residence visa was stopped in 2016 based on 4 year old statistics about the cost of these visa holders on NZ (ten of millions as stated by MP Woodhouse). Could you please share the cost of these visa holders on the NZ system as of 2017/2018"*

I will answer your request in order:

- 1) This paper, *Reporting on the outcomes of the Parent, Partnership and Dependent Child Category reviews, 25 January 2018*, is attached with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:
 - 6(a) to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand,
 - 6(c) to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial,
 - 9(2)(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons,
 - 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials,
 - 9(2)(g)(i) maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown.
- 2) There are three papers in scope of your request:
 - Information on the Parent Review Category, 24 February 2017



- Briefing on findings and high level options regarding the Parent Review Category, 21 April 2017
- Scoping Potential Changes to the Parent/Grandparent Visitor Visa Settings, 17 May 2017

The three papers are attached. Certain information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

- 3) We do not hold information on the 2017/18 cost of these visa holders. This cannot be provided without substantial collation and research, therefore I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

In withholding parts of the information you have requested, I have taken into account section 9(1) of the Act. I do not consider that there are any overriding public interest reasons that support the release of information being withheld in the particular documents that you have requested.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision to withhold material from the released information. The relevant contact details are as follows:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
WELLINGTON 6143
Ph 0800 802 602
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Yours sincerely



Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy