

23 OCT 2018



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Richard

fyi-request-8834-fb8a0584@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1819-0565

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your email of 9 October 2018 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

Pursuant to section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982, please provide the number and country of origin of visas provided in order for individuals and diplomats to attend the New Zealand Defence Industry Association's expo being held between 31 October 2018 and 1 November 2018.

This request is made with urgency, per section 12(1)(3), as the information requested is to be used to inform social narrative prior to the expo commencing.

Our Response

Please note for the purposes of this request I have anticipated that you are referring to The New Zealand Defence, Industry & National Security Forum.

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA.

The information requested is held on a large number of individual files. As there is no identifying feature specifically initiated for this event, to provide you with the information you have requested, staff would need to manually review all general visitor visa applications recently accepted by Immigration New Zealand to determine the purpose of travel. Immigration New Zealand has accepted over 90,000 general visitor visa applications since August 2018. It is unknown when the first visitor visa application may have been made for this event therefore the number of applications staff would need to manually review may exceed this number.

Providing this information would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served.

As required by section 18A of the OIA I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

I have considered consulting with you, as required by section 18B of the OIA. However, I have concluded that in order to obtain data specifically relating to the The New Zealand Defence, Industry



& National Security Forum a manual review of individual general visitor visa applications would still be required, therefore section 18(f) of the OIA would still apply.

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.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ayla Simpson, Senior Business Advisor, at ayla.simpson@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Karen Bishop
Assistant General, Manager Performance and Support
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment