



New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Manatū Aorere

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OIA 28783

17 October 2023

Personal details removed for proactive release

Tēnā koe Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your email which was partially transferred from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 22 August 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Regarding the PM's diplomatic visit to Vietnam in 2022, what advice was furnished to her delegation in regards to the working holiday visa arrangements between NZ and Vietnam? Please provide copies of any memos, emails, meeting agendas (including summaries of key points raised) or digital messages such as sms, WhatsApp or Signal messages.

On 19 August 2023, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 20 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Some information relevant to your request is publically available through the following link and therefore is refused in full under section 18(d) of the OIA: https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/prime-minister-reaffirms-economic-ties-viet-nam

Other information relevant to your request is attached. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (mfat.govt.nz)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Sarah Corbett

for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade





2 November 2022

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

7 November 2022

Minister of Immigration

For approval by

7 November 2022

Expanding the Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme

BRIEFING

Decision Submission

PURPOSE

To seek agreement to expand the Vietnamese working holiday scheme, for

discussion during the Prime Minister's planned visit to Viet Nam in mid-

November 2022.

Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Prime Minister

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Minister of Tourism

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

Associate Minister of Immigration

For information by

For information by

For information by

7 November 2022

Taipitopito whakapā - Contact details

NAME

ROLE

0.

Senior Policy Officer

DIVISION

South and South East Asia

WORK PHONE

s9(2)(a)

Sam Foley

Samantha Beckett

Manage

Division MBIE

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Expanding the Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme

Pito matua - Key points

- Working Holiday Visa Schemes (WHSs) are bilateral instruments between countries that enable young people to go on holiday, work and study in the other country for a defined period. These visas can provide a boost to tourism and to the labour force through workers for (primarily) the hospitality and primary sectors. They can also be used as a tool for furthering bilateral foreign policy and trade interests.
- However, WHSs have the potential to negatively affect New Zealand's labour market, by maintaining a reliance on lower-skilled labour and reducing job opportunities for New Zealanders.
- The cap for Viet Nam is currently set at a modest level of 100 places annually. In 2022, the cap was subject to a one off increase of a further 100 places, as part of the temporary increase to all capped WHSs. Under the bilateral arrangement, Viet Nam also offers 100 visas to young New Zealanders (although this is typically undersubscribed). New Zealand's allocation of WHS places to Viet Nam is the joint lowest (with Philippines and Thailand) for ASEAN countries with which New Zealand has a WHS.
- Viet Nam has raised its interest in expanding the number of places available to its nationals under the WHS. Most recently, Viet Nam's Foreign Minister raised this when he visited New Zealand in September 2022.
- The WHS with Viet Nam was concluded in 2011 through an Arrangement between New Zealand and Viet Nam. The arrangement provides for changes to the number of visas issued through written notice without constituting a formal amendment to the Arrangement (paragraphs 2 and 6).
- Viet Nam is a strong and growing partner of New Zealand. The people-to-people ties between Viet Nam and New Zealand form the cultural lifeblood in the relationship and help build connections across the trade and economic relationship. Viet Nam, a growing and well-connected economy, presents New Zealand with significant trade and investment cooperation opportunities, which deliver direct benefits to the people and businesses in both countries.
- Viet Nam is also an important international education market, currently New Zealand's fifth-largest market.
- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
 - we propose that the WHS to Viet Nam be permanently doubled from 100 places to 200 places, from 2023. This would be contingent on reciprocity from Viet Nam.
- If agreed, this offer could be made to Viet Nam's Prime Minister by Prime Minister Ardern during her visit to Viet Nam 14-17 November 2022. This would be in keeping with the visit's objectives around Renewing Relationships and Reconnecting New Zealand businesses post-COVID.
- A permanent increase to the Viet Nam WHS does carry some risk, as it is likely to have a small effect on the labour market in New Zealand. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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Expanding the Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme s6(b)(i)

As previously noted (submission on expanding the Spanish Working Holiday Scheme), in the medium to long-term, officials will be looking at the operation of all WHS to assess their compatibility with the Immigration Rebalance. It will also see how WHS as a whole can operate in a more consistent and strategic manner to support our wider immigration and labour market priorities as well as our foreign policy interests.

Deborah Geels

for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Released under the

Sam Foley

Manager, Immigration (International and

Humanitarian) Policy,

Labour, Science and Enterprise

Tūtohu - Recommendations

commended that you:	
Note that Viet Nam has expressed an interest in increasing the number of places availed to nationals under the WHS.	Yes / No
Note that Viet Nam is an important partner of New Zealand and a growing trade and education market.	Yes / No
Note that an increase to the WHS numbers of Viet Nam would help further connections between our two countries.	Yes / No
Note that Viet Nam currently has 200 places following the one-off temporary increase to the WHS cap.	Yes / No
Agree to permanently lift the number of places available to Viet Namunder the WHS from 100 to 200 places from 2023.	Yes / No
Agree that New Zealand should ask for a reciprocal increase, and that the offer be made contingent on Viet Nam's agreement to reciprocity.	Yes / No
Agree the Prime Minister proposes and publically discusses this expansion to the Viet Nam WHS during her trip to Viet Nam 14-17 November 2022.	Yes / No
Note the increase can be transacted through diplomatic channels through the exchange of notes.	Yes / No
Refer a copy of this submission for concurrence to the Prime Minister, Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Associate Minister of Immigration and Minister of Tourism for concurrence.	Yes / No
	Note that Viet Nam has expressed an interest in increasing the number of places availed to nationals under the WHS. Note that Viet Nam is an important partner of New Zealand and a growing trade and education market. Note that an increase to the WHS numbers of Viet Nam would help further connections between our two countries. Note that Viet Nam currently has 200 places following the one-off temporary increase to the WHS cap. Agree to permanently lift the number of places available to Viet Nam under the WHS from 100 to 200 places from 2023. Agree that New Zealand should ask for a reciprocal increase, and that the offer be made contingent on Viet Nam's agreement to reciprocity. Agree the Prime Minister proposes and publically discusses this expansion to the Viet Nam WHS during her trip to Viet Nam 14-17 November 2022. Note the increase can be transacted through diplomatic channels through the exchange of notes. Refer a copy of this submission for concurrence to the Prime Minister, Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Hon Nanaia Mahuta Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Hon Michael Wood Minister of Immigration

ate:

Date: /

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Expanding the Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme

Pūrongo – Report

- Working Holiday Schemes (WHS) are mechanisms which deepen important people-topeople connections, in turn supporting the New Zealand hospitality and primary industries, and increasing tourism.
- 2. The New Zealand–Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme is a bilateral arrangement that enables young people (18-30 year olds) from each country to travel to and work for a period of up to 12 months. Under the scheme, permanent employment is not allowed and the term with any one employer is limited to three months.

New Zealand and Viet Nam

- 3. The relationship between New Zealand and Viet Nam is growing rapidly. In July 2020, the relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership' the second-highest tier of Viet Nam's most valued relationships (alongside Australia, the UK, Singapore, and Indonesia). This reflects strong growth across multiple sectors, including political, defence and security, trade and economic and people-to-people links.
- 4. Viet Nam and New Zealand also share a similar set of geostrategic positions and are aligned on trade policy values. This makes Viet Nam an important partner in the Indo-Pacific particularly at a time when these values and positions are increasingly under threat.
- Viet Nam presents New Zealand with significant trade and investment cooperation opportunities, which have the potential to deliver direct benefits to the people and businesses in both countries. New Zealand and Viet Nam have agreed to a two-way trade target of US\$2 billion by 2024.
- Reflecting the growth in the relationship. Prime Minister Ardern, accompanied by the Minister
 for Trade and Export Growth and Agriculture, will be leading a business delegation to Viet
 Nam 14-17 November 2022. The objectives for this visit include Renewing Relationships
 and Reconnecting New Zealand businesses post-COVID.

The New Zealand-Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme

- 7. Viet Nam has raised its interest in extending the number of places available under the WHS, most recently when Viet Nam's Foreign Minister visited New Zealand in September 2022.
- 8. In addition to the direct request for a WHS increase, Viet Nam also consistently asks for stronger people, trade, and business links with New Zealand. Schemes like the WHS are essential in improving people-to-people links, and increasing young Vietnamese's affinity and understanding of New Zealand and its people.
- 9. New Zealand's current Viet Nam WHS opened for applications on 25 October 2022. The allocation for 2022 will be the standard 100 places plus a one-off allocation of 100 extra places. We propose that the scheme for Viet Nam remain at 200 places from 2023 onwards in effect making the one-off doubling the permanent amount. This would be contingent on Viet Nam reciprocating with an increase of 100 places for New Zealand applicants.

10. s6(b)(i)

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Expanding the Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme

11. In addition, the people-to-people ties between Viet Nam and New Zealand underpin the growth of our economic relationship. Viet Nam is the fifth-largest market for New Zealand international education and is of growing importance to New Zealand exporters. Increasing people-to-people ties will expand contacts, connections and familiarity to help advance New Zealand education, business and economic links.

Risks

13. s6(b)(i)

14. However, it should be noted that current labour market conditions may change. WHS caps and conditions generally cannot be restricted once instated and changes across multiple schemes (e.g. Spain, UK and Viet Nam), may have larger cumulative effects than anticipated, particularly if labour market conditions change rapidly away from the current labour scarcity. MBIE is currently in the process of identifying current and potential future data sources on WHS, to assess the effects on New Zealand.

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15. s6(a)

Current Working Holiday Schemes – ASEAN Region		
Country	Regular annual cap*	
Malaysia	1150	
Singapore	300	
Thailand	100	
Philippines	100	
Viet Nam	100	

^{*}All of these schemes received a one-off doubling of their annual caps for 2022, e.g. for the 2022 round, Singapore's cap is 600.

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Expanding the Viet Nam Working Holiday Scheme

16. s6(a)

Prime Minister Trade Mission to Viet Nam

- 17. If agreed, we propose that the increase be discussed by Prime Minister Ardern with her counterpart during Prime Minister Ardern's visit to Viet Nam in November 2022 with the announcement also occurring should there be positive progress towards reciprocation by Viet Nam.
- 18. The WHS with Viet Nam was agreed in 2011 through an arrangement between New Zealand and Viet Nam. The arrangement was concluded alongside negotiations for the ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Agreement, although it was not part of AANZFTA. With negotiations soon to be concluded for the AANZFTA upgrade, the decision to increase the scheme at this time would also be a signal to New Zealand's commitment to a trading and economic relationship of mutual benefit.

ETCHEGOIN, Julian (ESD)

To: THURSTON, Mary (SEA)

Subject: RE: FURTHER WORK NEEDED: Public Facing Documents: PM November Travels.

OIA redactions

From: BECKETT, Samantha (SEA) <Samantha.Beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 10 November 2022 8:38 pm

To: NEEDS, Andrew (SEA) < Andrew. Needs@mfat.govt.nz >; THURSTON, Mary (SEA)

<Mary.Thurston@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: FURTHER WORK NEEDED: Public Facing Documents: PM November Travels - 09/11

Hi both

Could you take a look at this and make sure you are comfortable with the WHS references compared with the submission? It's due back with PMO at 11am tomorrow NZT

The submission is signed by Minister Woods. Minister Mahuta has signed but we don't have it back. Worryingly, the e-copy we sent is missing every second page—something not noticed until now.

I think we have enough room for there to be an announcement

Kind regards

Sam

From:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) < guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 10 November 2022 4:49 pm

To: GOOD, Rebecca (APEC NZ) < Rebecca. Good@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Samantha (SEA)

<Samantha.Beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: VITALIS, Vangelis (DS TEG) < <u>Vangelis.Vitalis@mfat.govt.nz</u>>; GEELS, Deborah (DS AAG)

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VELDEN, Blake (APEC NZ) <Blake.vanVelden@mfat.govt.nz>; DE LEON, Rapunzel (APECPOL)

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GRACE, Krissy (CEO Office) < Krissy.Grace@mfat.govt.nz>; PAGE, Sally E (CMD)

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<<u>Lorraine.Lal@nzte.govt.nz</u>>

Subject: FURTHER WORK NEEDED: Public Facing Documents: PM November Travels - 09/11

Hi Rebecca

Thanks for coordinating the revisions of the PRs.

The Vietnam PR needs to be reworked:

- Ministers have approved the WHS (paper work may still be making its way through to officials)
- All of the paragraphs on the WHS that were in the redraft from PMO and were deleted need to be put back
- The PR needs to be fact checked
- Please track all changes in the document (the WHS sections were deleted but not tracked so it makes it really difficult to work through) ation Act

Out of scope

I have attached the version from PMO I sent you yesterday for reference. But the changes will need to be made in the version of the pack that you emailed me today to keep version control.

Can I please have these two PRs revised and back to me by 11am tomorrow.

Thanks

Guergana

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From: GOOD, Rebecca (APEC NZ) < Rebecca. Good@mfat.govt.nz >
Sent: Thursday, 10 November 2022 3:23 pm
To: Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] < Guergana. Guermanoff @dpmc.govt.nz >
Cc: VITALIS, Vangelis (DS TEG) \(\sqrt{Vangelis.Vitalis@mfat.govt.nz}\); GEELS, Deborah (DS AAG)
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```

Subject: RE: Public Facing Documents: PM November Travels - 09/11

<Lorraine.Lal@nzte.govt.nz>

jane.cunliffe@parliament.govt.nz; Suzy.Fewtrell@nzte.govt.nz; Lorraine Lal - WLG

Kia ora Guergana,

Please see attached our comments/edits on the revised Press Releases. As discussed just now, we will send through the EAS press release and updated announceables tracker shortly.

MationAci

Out of scope

Ngā mihi nui, Rebecca

Rebecca Good

Policy Officer

APEC Policy Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E rebecca.good@mfat.govt.nz

From:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) < guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 November 2022 6:35 PM

To: GOOD, Rebecca (APEC NZ) < Rebecca. Good@mfat.govtnz

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Suzy.Fewfrell@nzte.govt.nz; Lorraine Lal - WLG < Lorraine.Lal@nzte.govt.nz >

Subject: Public Facing Documents: PM November Travels - 09/11

Hi again,

Further to my comment below regarding the announcements tracker, I have just received this from PMO which will need quick consideration and response.

Please find attached the pack of revised PRs for the trip. Note PMO made a number amount of changes, and marked up a number of comments where further info/stats need to be added in on the MFAT/NZTE end please.

And just on the topic of press releases a few follow up questions we're seeking clarity on:

Out of scope

Working Holiday Scheme announcement (Where is this expected to take place? Assume this will become the centre piece of the post Viet Nam PM press con? I have no information on this so can we please get the PR official miorination at the second of the se and talking points redrafted to include – mostly done this in PMO revisions.

Out of scope

Grateful if we can have these back through by 3pm tomorrow.

I will likely pass through remarks/speeches tomorrow as one pack for simplicity (apart from Forbes which is being worked on overnight).

Thanks

Guergana

From: Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC]

Sent: Wednesday, 9 November 2022 6:26 pm

To: GOOD, Rebecca (APEC NZ) < Rebecca. Good@mfat.govt.nz >

Cc: VITALIS, Vangelis (DS TEG) < Vangelis. Vitalis@mfat.govt.nz >; GEELS, Deborah (DS AAG)

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<Lorraine.Lal@nzte.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: PM November Travels - 09/11
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Thanks Rebecca.

My comments below.

Guergana

From: GOOD, Rebecca (APEC NZ) **Sent:** Friday, 14 October 2022 5:09 PM

Mornation To:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) < guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz >

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Subject: RE: PM November Travels - Updates 14/10

Kia ora Guergana,

I hope you're having a good end to your week. Sending through some additional updates below.

For Decision

Out of scope

Announceables: Please see attached an indicative outline of anticipated announceables for each leg of the trip, for your consideration.

Out of scope

Announceables: Please note that the Viet Nam elements are still to be confirmed as we are working these through with NZ agencies and Viet Nam authorities. The timing and nature of some of the announcements through with NZ agencies and Viet Nam authorities. The timing and nature of some of the announcements is also subject to further discussions with Viet Nam. We understand, for example, that from a Viet Nam protocol point of view, they prefer to hold a signing event after the PM's meet, in which the Prime Ministers would witness the signing of any government to government arrangements. In addition to the proposed ag wi program items below, ENZ and NZTE are also working with institutions and businesses who may have arrangements that could be signed as part of the overall programme for the Prime Minister's visit.

Out of scope

Best regards, Rebecca

Rebecca Good

Policy Officer APEC Policy Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

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Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2022 8:48 AM

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Subject: RE: PM November Travels - Updates 12/10

Out of scope