

13 March 2025

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OIA 29918

Thank you for your email of 29 January 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *"When was MFAT informed about changes to the Recognised Seasonal Employer wage requirements?"*
2. *"What communications has MFAT had with equivalent ministries in the Pacific about changes to the Recognised Seasonal Employer wage requirements?"*
3. *"Copies of the aforementioned communications, if they exist."*

On 13 February 2025 the following parts of your request were transferred under section 14(b) of the OIA to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for response:

"Copies of the aforementioned communications, if they exist [When was MFAT informed about changes to the Recognised Seasonal Employer wage requirements]."

On 27 February 2025, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 10 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Response to your request

In response to part one of your request, on 25 March 2024 MBIE notified agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), of a short-term work programme for the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme that included the RSE wage requirement. On 15 May 2024, MBIE emailed MFAT with a draft briefing that included the proposed changes to the RSE wage requirements.

In response to part two of your request, in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, a summary of the information you have requested is provided in **Annex A**. We have chosen to provide a summary as providing the information in another form would prejudice the interests protected by section 6 of the OIA. Please note some information is not provided in the summary because it is withheld 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; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

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:
www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annex A – Communications with Pacific Governments

Communication type	Between	Date
Meeting	Officials at the of the New Zealand High Commission in Vanuatu, and Vanuatu's Commissioner of Labour	21 August 2024
Conference	Attendees of the Recognised Seasonal Employer Conference, which included Pacific partners	28-29 August 2024
Meeting	Officials at the New Zealand High Commission in Fiji, and officials at the National Employment Centre in Fiji's Ministry of Employment, Productivity & Workplace Relations	5 September 2024
Meeting	Officials at the of the New Zealand High Commission in Vanuatu, and Vanuatu's Commissioner of Labour	20 September 2024
Letter	From Vanuatu's Commissioner of Labour to the New Zealand High Commission in Vanuatu	20 September 2024
Meeting	Officials at the New Zealand High Commission in Papua New Guinea, and officials at Papua New Guinea's Labour Mobility Unit	7 October 2024
Meeting	Officials at the New Zealand High Commission in Tonga, and officials at the Overseas Employment Division in Tonga's Ministry of Internal Affairs	8 October 2024
Conference	Attendees of the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting (PLMAM), which included Pacific partners	14 November 2024