

21 July 2026

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OIA 30893

Personal details removed for proactive release

Tēnā koe Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2026 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Could I please have copies of communications between the New Zealand and UK governments about the UK government's proposal to reform its immigration law ("earned settlement") and in particular any communication raising concerns about retrospectively applying new settlement to criteria to New Zealanders already living in the UK (note - I have a particular interest in UK Ancestry visas)."

On 22 May 2026, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 42 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

Since the government of the United Kingdom (UK) announced proposed reforms to its immigration law ("earned settlement"), the New Zealand Government has actively engaged with UK officials, including at Ministerial level, to register our interest in changes that could impact New Zealanders on UK Ancestry visas, and those seeking to settle permanently in the UK through Indefinite Leave to Remain.

The UK Government's consultation on its proposed earned settlement reforms closed on 12 February 2026, and we understand UK officials are currently reviewing consultation feedback before the UK government publishes its formal response and introduces confirmed changes through amendments to UK Immigration Rules.

Please see the following table for a list of documents in scope of your request:

#	Title	Date	Decision
1.	Email from NZHC summarising a phone call with the UK Home Office titled UK immigration reform - update	11 December 2025	Some information withheld as out of scope, or under s6(a), s6(b)(i), and s9(2)(a).
2.	Email chain between New Zealand High Commission (NZHC) in London and UK	25 Nov – 12 Dec 2025	Some information withheld as out of

#	Title	Date	Decision
	Home Office titled Minister Tapp Bio and UK Ancestry Visa Figures		scope, or under s6(a), and s9(2)(a).
3.	Minister Mike Tapp Bio and UK Ancestry Visa Dataset sent to NZ High Commission from UK Home Office	12 December 2025	Some information withheld under s6(a).
4.	Email from NZHC summarising meeting between New Zealand High Commissioner to the UK and UK Minister for Migration and Citizenship	18 Dec 2025	Some information withheld as out of scope, or under s6(a), s6(b)(i), and s9(2)(a).
5.	File note: Head of Mission call on Mike Tapp, Minister for Migration and Citizenship	Sent 18 Dec 2025	Some information withheld under s6(b)(i).
6.	Emails re "NZHC meeting with Home Office on UK earned settlement changes"	1 June 2026	Some information withheld as out of scope, s6(a), s6(b)(i), and s9(2)(a).

Some information 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;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

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

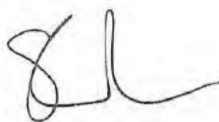
Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:

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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Out of scope

RESTRICTED

From: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 11 December 2025 3:55 am
To: OKEROA, Erina (EUR) <Erina.Okeroa@mfat.govt.nz>; HAYES, Patrick (EUR) <Patrick.Hayes@mfat.govt.nz>; WALTON-FRANCE, Dom (EUR) <dominic.walton-france@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: GUERMANOFF, Guergana (LON) <Guergana.Guermanoff@mfat.govt.nz>; COOPER, Hamish (LON) <Hamish.Cooper@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: UK immigration reform - update [SEC=RESTRICTED]

[RESTRICTED]

RESTRICTED

Hi team WLN

I spoke to the UK Home Office today and wanted to give you a quick readout of the call. I spoke with members of the s6(a) team (desk officer and manager) as well as a leader from the s6(a) team.

It was a helpful call. It started with the team giving me a broad introduction to the new earned settlement structure, then moved into Q&A.

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

A very positive meeting. I had sent our questions in in advance, and they had good and considered answers in response to our concerns.

s6(b)(i)

LON will have a look at the policy and brief HOM accordingly.

Any questions, please let me know. Otherwise, I'll send some draft TPs down tomorrow.

Thanks,
Sophie



Sophie Kalderimis (she/her)
First Secretary – Political/Bilateral
New Zealand High Commission London | Te Aka Aorere o Rānana

M s9(2)(a)

E sophie.kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz

RESTRICTED

Out of scope

From: s6(a)

Date: Friday, 12 Dec 2025 at 10:43 am

To: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: s6(a) SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>, s6(a)

Subject: Minister Tapp Bio and UK Ancestry Visa Figures

Morning Sophie,

I hope my email finds you well, it was lovely to speak on Wednesday and thanks for sending over the High Commissioner's bio. Please find attached a copy of Minister Tapp's bio.

s6(a)

s6(a)

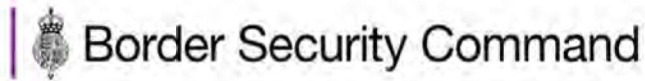
In terms of responding to the consultation, the email address to do so is EarnedSettlementConsultationQueries@homeoffice.gov.uk. If you decide to send the response as a letter to the Minister, please can we ask that you send this via s6(a)

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
s6(a)

Border Security Command | Migration and Borders Group

Home Office | s6(a)



Out of scope

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Out of scope

From: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: 08 December 2025 15:04
To: s6(a)
Cc: s6(a) SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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[UNCLASSIFIED]
Hi s6(a)

Finally back in the office today after spending the whole of last week at home. Some nasty bugs this winter!

In terms of questions for Wednesday, as mentioned, we'd be interested in a general outline briefing on the changes to earned settlement. Specifically, we have questions on:

- How will the UK Ancestry visa work in with the new system? For example, at the end of the UK Ancestry visa's 5-year term, under the new system will the holder get 'credit' towards the 10-year settlement period, or will changing to a new visa type put them back at the start of the ten-year term?
- Would the UK consider extending the Ancestry visa to be a 10-year period to align with the new settlement period?
- Is any consideration is being given to exclusions to the retrospective application of the new policy that could potentially be applied to New Zealanders?

Thanks for the information re the meeting with the Minister. I'll discuss with the High Commissioner and come back to you tomorrow on topics. I will most happily send the High Commissioner's bio through, too.

We will be arriving by car, please. Details of the vehicle:
s6(a)

s6(a)

Many thanks,
Sophie

From: s6(a)

Sent: Monday, 8 December 2025 1:33 pm

To: SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>; KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: s6(a)

COOPER, Loryn (LON) <Loryn.Cooper@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Rachel,

Many thanks for confirming, I'm not sure if Sophie is back in the office today but we had been expecting to receive some questions ahead of our working-level meeting on Wednesday. I'm wondering if you can please share these so I can pass these over to policy colleagues?

For the meeting between the Minister and the High Commissioner alongside Earned Settlement s6(a)

If the High Commissioner has a particular interest or questions relating to these topics please do let us know. Also I would be very grateful if you could share a bio for the High Commissioner and happy to reciprocate!

Finally, I wanted to check how the High Commissioner will be arriving at s6(a) If it's by car we can book a visitor parking space but will need to arrange this with reception so grateful if you can let us know if this is required.

Thanks,
s6(a)

Border Security Command | Migration and Borders Group

Home Office | s6(a)



Border Security Command

Out of scope

Out of scope

From: s6(a)
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 2:42 pm
To: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Super!

Thanks Sophie, if you could send these through once ready I'll pass them over to policy colleagues.

Of course, I've spoken with Minister Tapp's office and would 10am on Tuesday 16 December be suitable for the High Commissioner? We would be delighted to host the meeting in person at s6(a)

Best wishes,
s6(a)

Border Security Command | Migration and Borders Group

Home Office | s6(a)



Border Security Command

Out of scope

Out of scope

From: s6(a)
Date: Tuesday, 02 Dec 2025 at 3:13 pm
To: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Sophie,

Thanks for getting back to me and sorry to hear you've been under the weather – I hope you feel better soon!

That's great, and yes completely agree.

Super – I will send a meeting invite for Wednesday 10 December shortly.

Not to worry at all, there are lots of changes in this space so just wanted to be sure that we have the right people in the room. Do you have any particular questions / topics you would like to cover relating to changes to the indefinite leave to remain period or earned settlement? Keen to make sure you get the most out of this meeting!

Best wishes,
s6(a)

Border Security Command | Migration and Borders Group

Home Office | s6(a)



Border Security Command

From: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: 02 December 2025 14:39
To: s6(a)
Cc: s6(a) SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s6(a)

Out of scope

I agree, having the working level discussion prior to the Minister-High Commissioner call is wise and will likely lead to a more fulsome and clear discussion.

Out of scope

Apologies for my poor nomenclature – I am very much new to immigration policy! Focusing on earned settlement will be sufficient – my reference to legal migration routes was really meaning the changes to the indefinite leave to remain period and the new ‘earned’ nature of settlement.

Many thanks,
Sophie

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s6(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2025 1:17 pm
To: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Sophie,

I hope my email finds you well. I've reached out to policy colleagues working on earned settlement and wonder if any of the following dates/time would be suitable for the working-level dialogue?

- Tuesday 9 December 15:00 – 16:00
- Wednesday 10 December 13:00 – 14:00
- Friday 12 December 13:00 – 14:00

These colleagues are regionally based so a meeting on MS teams would be easiest, but thank you for your offer to travel to s6(a)

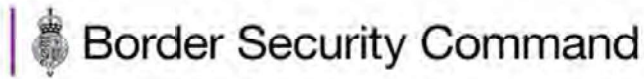
I understand that you also wish to discuss changes to legal migration routes can I confirm you mean the changes announced in part III of the Asylum Policy Statement on 'safe and legal routes'? This includes capped safe and legal pathways for refugees, expanding the community sponsorship schemes and also introducing new capped pathways for refugees/displaced students to come to the UK and study/work.

Many thanks,
s6(a)

s6(a)

Border Security Command | Migration and Borders Group

Home Office | s6(a)



Out of scope

From: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:46

To: s6(a)

Cc: s6(a)

SPENCER, Rachel (LON) <Rachel.Spencer@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

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Hi s6(a)

Thanks for your email, it's greatly appreciated.

In terms of the working-level discussion: no, it'll be just London based staff. We are happy to come to you if that assists with setting up a meeting.

In terms of the Minister/High Commissioner call: correct, changes to legal migration routes (including the increased settlement period) and earned settlement are the key topics. As part of this, it is likely the High Commissioner will raise the interplay between the changes and the UK Ancestry visa, which, as you'll be aware, is often used by New Zealanders.

Many thanks for your assistance. Please let me know if you require anything further.

Thanks,
Sophie

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s6(a)

Sent: Friday, 28 November 2025 11:33 am

To: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: s6(a)

Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Sophie,

I hope my email finds you well. As s6(a) says we'll be able to assist with both requests. I have a couple of questions to help us start progressing things on our side. On the first item can I check if colleagues based in NZ will also be joining? On the second item we'll flag this request with the Minister's office but in the meantime can you please confirm if changes to legal migration routes and earned settlement are the only topics you wish to cover during the policy dialogue? If there is anything else please let me know.

Thanks,
s6(a)

Border Security Command | Migration and Borders Group

Home Office | s6(a)



Border Security Command

Out of scope

Out of scope

From: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON) <Sophie.Kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: 26 November 2025 11:41
To: s6(a)
Subject: RE: policy document - changes to routes for legal migration [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s6(a)

While I have your contact details, I am hoping to set up a meeting with someone in the Home Office to discuss the policy document released last week detailing the changes to the legal migration routes and the new 'earned settlement' policy. May I please ask for your assistance in identifying the right person in the Home Office?

In addition, we are hoping to set up a call between our new High Commissioner, Hamish Cooper, and Minister Mike Tapp on the policy changes. May I please ask for you to refer me on to the right person to make this request?

Many thanks,
Sophie

Sophie Kalderimis (she/her)

First Secretary – Political/Bilateral

New Zealand High Commission London | Te Aka Aorere o Rānana



M s9(2)(a)

E sophie.kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz

4 pages removed as out of scope

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Mike Tapp MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Migration and Citizenship)



Mike Tapp was appointed an immigration minister in the Home Office on 6 September 2025.

His brief includes visa policy, operations of UK Visas and Immigration, legal migration and Border operations including the digital transformation of the UK Border.

Mike was elected as the MP for Dover and Deal in July 2024 and previously served in HM Armed Forces completing tours in Afghanistan and Iraq before joining the National Crime Agency.

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s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Out of scope

From: KALDERIMIS, Sophie (LON)

Sent: Thursday, 18 December 2025 7:31 pm

To: OKEROA, Erina (EUR) ; WALTON-FRANCE, Dom (EUR) ; HAYES, Patrick (EUR)

Cc: GUERMANOFF, Guergana (LON) ; COOPER, Hamish (LON)

Subject: UK immigration reforms: HoM meeting with Minister Mike Tapp

Hi WLN

HOM and I met with Mike Tapp, Minister for Migration and Citizenship, on Tuesday morning. We **attach** the file note for your information.

The meeting was very positive. We treated it as an introductory call, s6(a)

to use if it were to be decided that direct advocacy on the immigration reforms would be required. As you'll see in the File Note, s6(a)

s6(a)

- s6(a)

-

- s6(b)(i)

Out of scope

Out of scope

Happy to discuss, perhaps in a call in the new year.

Thanks,

Sophie



Sophie Kalderimis (she/her)

First Secretary – Political/Bilateral

New Zealand High Commission London | Te Aka Aorere o Rānana

M s9(2)(a)

E sophie.kalderimis@mfat.govt.nz

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File Note: HoM call on Mike Tapp, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Migration and Citizenship) in the Home Office

16 December 10 – 10.30am

New Zealand High Commission

- High Commissioner, Hamish Cooper
- First Secretary Political, Sophie Kalderimis

Home Office:

- Minister for Migration and Citizenship, Mike Tapp

Summary

- Cooper introduced himself and referred to the valuable bilateral relationship between the UK and NZ, including the very positive people-to-people linkages and two-way migration which supports our wider shared interests.
- s6(b)(i)
- s6(b)(i)
- Cooper responded noting that New Zealand was interested in any how transitional arrangement would be implemented, with an eye to ensuring those close to settlement wouldn't be left stranded. Cooper also commended the Home Office officials the High Commission had engaged with, describing them as open and responsive, and the interactions as having been helpful.
- Cooper then asked about the timing for final decisions on the proposed changes, following the consultation process.

- s6(b)(i)
- s6(b)(i)
- Cooper responded by saying that New Zealand wanted to support the UK in achieving its objectives, without unintended consequences on New Zealand citizens. He reiterated that there was considerable value in migration in both directions, and this was connected, for example, to the considerable benefits both NZ and the UK were seeing flowing from the bilateral FTA, with strong interest being shown by NZ companies in establishing or expanding their presence in the UK, and increasing mutually beneficial academic and scientific exchanges, and two-way investment.
- s6(b)(i)
- Cooper noted that UK Ancestry Visas were demonstrative of the relationship, with the holders being both "your" [UK] and "our" [NZ] people. Long term migration and settlement also created deep links, with an increasing number of people spending time in both countries each year.
- s6(b)(i)

Out of scope

RESTRICTED

From: REID, Anna (LON)
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2026 4:03 pm
To: FRUEAN, Tausala (LON) <Tausala.Fruean@mfat.govt.nz>; COOPER, Hamish (LON) <Hamish.Cooper@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: OKEROA, Erina (EUR) <Erina.Okeroa@mfat.govt.nz>; JACKSON, Jemma (LON) <Jemma.Jackson@mfat.govt.nz>; WALTON-FRANCE, Dom (EUR) <dominic.walton-france@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: NZHC meeting with Home Office on UK earned settlement changes - June 26 [SEC=RESTRICTED]

Kia ora koutou,

Sharing the below filenote with thanks to Jemma on our call with the HO this afternoon regarding the changes to immigration rules with potential impact on NZers here in the UK.

Kind regards, Anna

From: JACKSON, Jemma (LON) <Jemma.Jackson@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2026 3:32 pm
To: REID, Anna (LON) <Anna.Reid@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: NZHC meeting with Home Office on UK earned settlement changes - June 26 [SEC=RESTRICTED]

[RESTRICTED]

RESTRICTED

On 1 June, Political Counsellor and Senior Policy Adviser had a call with s6(a) s6(a) International Directorate), s6(a) International Directorate) and s6(a) (Earned Settlement Lead) at the Home Office for an update on UK Earned Settlement changes and UK Ancestry Visas. Political Counsellor set out the context for the meeting including that New Zealand's Minister of Internal Affairs Hon Brooke van Velden would be visiting London this week and meeting with Home Office Minister Mike Tapp.

HO noted that the proposed changes on earned settlement had been out for public consultation between November 2025 to February 2026 and received around s6(b)(i) responses (serving as one of the largest public consultations). HO had also been s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

Officials confirmed that the Youth Mobility Scheme was not captured in these changes (as the visa did not count towards settlement). s6(a) confirmed that she was looking to set up a meeting for us on ETAs and dual citizenship.

We reiterated our interest in this policy area as it was developed and thanked the team for keeping us up to date. We suggested further contact once the policy positions had been finalised.

Jemma Jackson

Senior Policy Adviser (Foreign and Security Policy)

New Zealand High Commission London

M s9(2)(a)

1 Pall Mall East, London, SW1Y 5AU, United Kingdom

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