

08 APR 2016



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Mr John Minto
johnminto@orcon.net.nz

File No: DOIA 1516-1104

Dear Mr Minto

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) received on 07 March 2016 requesting the following information:

- *“1. How many young Israelis have been accepted into New Zealand on the “Israel Working Holiday Scheme” in each year since the inception of the programme?
2. How many young Palestinians have been accepted into New Zealand on working holiday schemes over the same period of time?
3. How many young Israelis have had the “working holiday” visas revoked over the same period of time?
4. How many young Israelis have come to New Zealand under this scheme following their service in the Israeli army occupation of Palestinian territories or the siege of Gaza?”*

Our response

In regards to item 1 of your request, this information is refused in reliance on section 18(d) of the OIA because the information requested is publically available at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/statistics/>

In regards to item 2 of your request, information on the ethnic origins of Israel passport holders is not collected by Immigration New Zealand (INZ). However, INZ does record those who identify themselves as Palestinian nationals. No Palestinian nationals have been granted a visa under a working holiday scheme (WHS).

In regards to item 3 of your request, no WHS visas for Israeli nationals were revoked in the period 1 July 2011 till 29 February 2016.

In regards to item 4 of your request, this information is refused in reliance on section 18 (f) of the OIA because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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. 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.

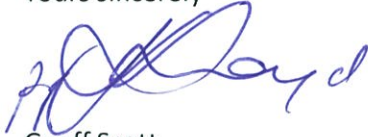


You have the right to contest the decision to refuse the request by seeking an investigation and review of that decision by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
P O Box 10-152
Wellington

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Safaa Haddad, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at safaa.haddad@mbie.govt.nz or 04 896 5367.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Scott
Assistant General Manager – Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment