

12 October 2021

John Burns-Smith
fyi-request-16616-f41b9481@requests.fyi.org.nz

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 27683

Tēnā koe John Burns-Smith

I refer to your email of 4 September 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Policy documents, guidance notes that outline what categories of person are entitled to be issued diplomatic passports and under what circumstances (for example, current and former prime ministers / Department CEOs) and any policies that govern the use of these travel documents.

You were advised on 1 October 2021 that we needed to extend the timeframe for making a decision on your request due to the need for further consultation and review. Thank you for your patience while this process was completed.

All applicants must complete a standard Department of Internal Affairs application form for a new or renewed passport. Applications for a diplomatic passport must be accompanied by a Letter of Eligibility signed by the person's manager and authorised against the eligibility criteria by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Protocol Division. Only New Zealand citizens can hold New Zealand diplomatic passports.

Former Prime Ministers are not eligible for diplomatic passports as a matter of course. Some ex-Prime Ministers may have been issued a diplomatic passport to undertake a particular Government role for a finite period, for example, as a Special Envoy.

The following documents are attached in relation to your request:

1. New Zealand Diplomatic Passports - Eligibility Criteria
2. Information Sheet for Diplomatic Passport Holders

A small amount of information is withheld under section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents on the Ministry's website.

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



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade