



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Andrew Little	Portfolio	Minister of Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Changes to Immigration Regulations for the new Skilled Migrant Category	Date to be published	18 September 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
May 2023	Changes to Immigration Regulations for the new Skilled Migrant Category	Office of the Minister of Immigration
31 May 2023	Changes to Immigration Regulations for the new Skilled Migrant Category DEV-23-MIN-0097 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of Confidential advice to Government.



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Changes to Immigration Regulations for the New Skilled Migrant Category

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 31 May 2023, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1 **noted** that on 5 April 2023, DEV agreed to changes to the Skilled Migrant Category residence visas, including changes to streamline the application process [DEV-23-MIN-0049];
- 2 **noted** that proposed changes to the application process (to include a zero-rated Skilled Migrant Category Expression of Interest fee to deter ineligible people from applying for a Skilled Migrant Category residence class visa unless invited to apply) will require amendments to the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010 (the Immigration Regulations);
- 3 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make changes to the Immigration Regulations to implement a zero-rated fee for notifying an Expression of Interest to apply for a Skilled Migrant Category residence class visa, both online and in hard copy, to take effect from 16 August 2023;
- 4 **noted** that it is intended that the online Skilled Migrant Category residence visa application will have the same fee as a hard copy application, and that the Immigration Regulations need to be amended to clarify that there is no difference in the fee;
- 5 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make changes to the Immigration Regulations to implement other policy decisions, including:
 - 5.1 providing for a fee for an online Skilled Migrant Category residence visa application (to be equal to the hard copy fee);
 - 5.2 removing references to the Skilled Migrant Category Job Search Visa (Cabinet has previously agreed to close this visa category: DEV-23-MIN-0049);
 - 5.3 minor and technical changes to the Immigration Regulations in accordance with these policy decisions and those previously agreed by Cabinet;
- 6 **noted** that the revised Immigration Regulations are expected to be submitted to the Cabinet Legislation Committee for consideration on 20 July 2023, and that an exemption to the 28-day rule will be sought to enable implementation by 16 August 2023;

- 7 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make minor and technical decisions, including minor policy decisions, as required to facilitate the drafting of the amendments outlined above, provided they are consistent with the agreed policy.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon David Parker
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Hon Kieran McAnulty
Hon Barbara Edmonds
Hon Dr Duncan Webb
Hon Rino Tirikatene
Hon Dr Deborah Russell
Hon Rachel Brooking
Hon Jo Luxton

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV