



BRIEFING

Employer-Assisted Work Visa Reforms – draft Cabinet papers

Date:	12 July 2019	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0125 19-20

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway Minister of Immigration	Agree to provide feedback on the attached draft Cabinet papers	17 July 2019

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy	04 901 3855	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Ged Hiscoke	Senior Policy Advisor, Immigration Policy	04 474 2998		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
N/A

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

Comments



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Purpose

This briefing provides, for your feedback, two draft Cabinet papers on the proposed new gateway system for employer-assisted temporary work visas:

- A revised draft of Paper One (the employer gateway system and related changes).
- An initial draft of Paper Two (the job gateway).

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a. **Agree** to provide feedback on the attached draft Cabinet papers

Agree / Disagree

- b. **Note** that officials will begin agency consultation on the attached Cabinet papers, subject to any feedback you have.

Noted

Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

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Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister of Immigration

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Context

1. In December 2018, Cabinet agreed to consult on a new employer-assisted gateway system for temporary visas and enhanced regional workforce planning, and invited you to report back on final proposals [CAB-18-MIN-0608.01]. The gateway framework would shift the focus of the employer-assisted temporary work visa system onto employers.
2. You have subsequently agreed to seek Cabinet agreement to a set of final recommendations on the employer, job and migrant gateways. An initial draft of Paper One and A3s were provided to you on 7 June 2019, and a revised draft was provided on 28 June 2019. This briefing attaches a further revised draft of Paper One, and an initial draft of the job gateway paper (Paper Two) for your feedback.

Draft Cabinet papers

3. The draft Cabinet paper (Paper One) attached at **Annex One** has been revised based on your feedback. The key changes in the revised version are highlighted, and include a section based on your decisions on salary thresholds, as well as minor amendments.
4. The draft Cabinet paper (Paper Two) attached at **Annex Two** is entitled “*A new approach to employer-assisted work visas and regional workforce planning: Paper Two – the job gateway*”. This paper is the second of two papers that seek final agreement to the new employer-assisted gateway system.
5. Paper Two summarises the feedback from consultation and seeks agreement to the three distinct pathways under the job gateway:
 - **The highly-paid pathway**, as recognised through jobs with high remuneration.
 - **The sector agreement pathway**, which enables specific terms and conditions to be negotiated with a sector.
 - **The regionalised labour market testing pathway**, which enables differences in regional labour markets and the wages offered for the job to be reflected in immigration treatment.
6. This paper has been drafted on the basis of advice provided to you on the regional aspects of the job gateway (briefing 3945 18-19 refers). We will update and amend the draft cabinet paper according to your feedback and decisions on that advice.

Next steps

7. We seek your feedback on the draft Cabinet papers by 17 July 2019, and will update the papers accordingly.
8. An updated timeline for Cabinet consideration of the papers is provided below.

Table One: Timeline for temporary work visa Cabinet consideration

Paper	Timing
Revised draft of Paper One (the employer gateway system and related changes) and initial draft of Paper Two (the job gateway) provided to the Minister	12 July
Feedback on Cabinet papers provided to officials	16 July
Formal Ministerial and agency consultation	22 July – 2 August

Joint Cabinet paper on regional workforce planning bodies considered by DEV	24 July
Labour Market Ministers meeting	25 July
Final Cabinet papers provided to the Minister	12 August
Cabinet papers lodged for DEV	15 August
Cabinet papers considered by DEV	22 August

Annexes

Annex One: Revised draft Cabinet paper on the gateway framework (Paper One)

Annex Two: Initial draft Cabinet paper on the job gateway (Paper Two)