

Assurance review of the operation of the Accredited Employer Work Visa scheme

Commissioner's certificate for application of the Inquiries Act 2013

Date: 9 October 2023
From: Heather Baggott, Deputy Public Service Commissioner
To: Jenn Bestwick

1 Background

This document relates to the Public Service Commissioner's assurance review of the operation of the Accredited Employer Work Visa scheme (the Review). Under the Terms of Reference, Jenn Bestwick has been appointed to undertake the Review (the Reviewer).

The purpose of the Review is to consider whether Immigration New Zealand's administration of the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) scheme is being carried out appropriately, including but not limited to, consideration of operational efficiency, risk management, and the external post-COVID context; and identify any appropriate next steps for improvement in the administration of the AEWV scheme with a focus on mitigating the risk of migrant exploitation and irregular migration.

2 Application of provisions of the Inquiries Act 2013

Pursuant to schedule 3, clause 8(1)(b) of the Public Service Act 2020, I certify it is reasonably necessary that the provisions of the Inquiries Act 2013, specified in schedule 3, clause 8(2) of the Public Service Act 2020, apply in relation to the Review.

- This is because: Given the nature of the Review, and the need to balance the public interest in disclosure with the privacy interests of potential participants, the Reviewer should have the power to restrict access to the information the Reviewer receives, as well as powers to ensure she has access to all relevant documents and witnesses.

3 Delegation

Pursuant to schedule 3, clause 6 of the Public Service Act 2020 and, for the purposes of the Review, I delegate to the Reviewer, my functions and powers under schedule 3 clause 8(2) of the Public Service Act 2020, including a delegation under section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2013, and my functions and powers under schedule 3 clause 11(2) of the Public Service Act 2020.

This delegation is in addition to the functions and powers delegated to the Reviewer in the Terms of Reference for the Review.

This delegation shall come into effect from the date of this instrument and shall continue in force until the Review has come to an end, or the delegation is otherwise revoked in writing.

SIGNED by the **DEPUTY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Baggott', written in a cursive style.

Heather Baggott