

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Defence
Minister for the Public Service
Minister of Immigration
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's
Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques



17 August 2023

Mr Peter Hughes
Public Service Commissioner
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

By email: 9(2)(a) privacy

Dear Commissioner,

Concerns have been raised with me in relation to Immigration New Zealand, specifically about the operation of the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) scheme. At a high level, the concerns relate to how the scheme is being administered by Immigration New Zealand, potentially resulting in opportunities for misuse and exploitation by third parties.

These are serious concerns. As Minister of Immigration, I require assurance that the AEWV is being administered appropriately. It is critical that New Zealanders have trust and confidence in the scheme and its administration. To that end, I am asking you to undertake an independent review of the operation of the AEWV and to provide me with your findings and any recommendations as to appropriate next steps.

I expect that this review will cover the Employer Accreditation process and the Job Check process of the AEWV scheme by Immigration NZ, including:

- service delivery performance
- operational decision-making including management and internal controls, verification and auditing
- resourcing and capability

In the course of your review if you find any other matters warranting further consideration, you should bring those to my attention.

The review should be carried out by a suitably qualified independent expert. I would like you to provide me with advice on the terms of reference, the selection and appointment of the reviewer and on the establishment of an agreed process and timeframe for the review. This should be done following consultation with the Secretary for Business, Innovation and Employment.

I would appreciate your advice on the proposed details and terms of reference for the review as soon as is practicable.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Andrew Little MP
Minister of Immigration

cc: Ms Carolyn Tremain
Secretary for Business, Innovation and Employment
Email: 9(2)(a) privacy