

Assurance Review of the operation of the Accredited Employer Work Visa Scheme

Minute of process #1

Engagement with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Personnel

Introduction

1. As set out in the terms of reference for this Assurance Review, Public Service Commissioner Mr Peter Hughes has appointed the Reviewer, Jenn Bestwick, to independently review the operation of the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) Scheme.
2. This minute sets out the process for Ministry of Business, Immigration and Employment (MBIE) personnel (i.e. employees and contractors) to engage with the Review. This includes engagement with current and former MBIE personnel.
3. A second minute will be issued [in the next two weeks] setting out the process for stakeholders who are external to MBIE to engage with the Review.

Focus of this independent assurance review

4. The purpose of this review is to consider whether Immigration New Zealand is administering the AEWV scheme appropriately, and to identify any areas for improvement with a focus on mitigating the risk of migrant exploitation and irregular migration. It was initiated to provide independent assurance as to the operation of the scheme.
5. Complaints about specific cases or the conduct of individuals are relevant insofar as they may illustrate wider issues of process. However, the resolution of such complaints is outside of scope and will not be addressed through this Review.

Contact information

6. The Review has established an email address aewvreview@publicservice.govt.nz. This is the primary point of contact for the Review and all MBIE personnel will be advised of this email address.

Engagement process

Written submissions

7. Anyone who wishes to submit their thoughts or experiences in relation to the operation of the AEWV can email the aewvreview@publicservice.govt.nz address. Only the Review team have access to this email address. All information and feedback received through this email address will be considered and analysed by the Review.

8. The period for providing written submissions through this email address will close on 20 October 2023.

Meetings

9. In addition to Immigration New Zealand leadership and leaders in other relevant parts of MBIE, the Review will engage with individuals and/or groups of personnel who wish to provide relevant information. This will be through meetings that the Review will set up, as appropriate. These may be via phone, Teams or in person. Any personnel wanting to be involved in such a meeting should contact the Review Team via aewvreview@publicservice.govt.nz.
10. Initial meetings with personnel are also expected to be completed by 20 October 2023.

Confidentiality

11. Submissions to the review (whether in writing or in meetings) are confidential to the Review and submitters can be assured their identity will not be revealed by the Review, nor will comments or feedback be attributed or quoted. Feedback from engagement with MBIE personnel will inform and be included in the Review report but without attribution or identification (except potentially at senior leadership level, following consultation).

Information about the Review

12. The terms of reference for the Review can be found on the [Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission website](#).

Jenn Bestwick
MBIE Assurance Review
8 September 2023