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| Moscow Branch New Zealand Embassy 44 Ulitsa Povarskaya Moscow RUSSIA |  Immigration New Zealand TE RATONGA MANENE |
| Web address: www.immigration.govt.nz/moscow | |
| INZ reception is open to the public 9.30 am – 11.30 am Monday to Friday (except public holidays). INZ can be contacted for phone inquires between 9.30 am – 11.00 am , and 4 pm to 5 pm , Monday to Friday (except public holidays). Telephone: (+7 495) 956 2642 or Fax: (+7 495) 232 0180 | |

Internet Scams

We are regularly contacted by New Zealanders who have been caught by internet scams. Many scams involve people impersonating women writing to men looking for friendship and/or a relationship. Unfortunately what they are really interested in is money.

They are generally familiar with the immigration process and use their knowledge to persuade sponsors to send money to a bank account (commonly Western Union) for airline tickets or similar costs. Once successful in obtaining money they usually can come up with another very plausible reason to ask for more.

Latest technology allows them to be even more convincing as they are able to send copies of false passports as proof of identity or false labels to convince sponsors they have a visa to travel to New Zealand. Their limited English ability works in their favour allowing communications to be kept at a basic level.

Many people need a sponsor to enable them to meet visa policy requirements. If you are considering sponsoring a visitor to New Zealand you should know:

- With any visa application based on a relationship, supporting evidence should be provided to demonstrate the nature of the relationship with the sponsor. The sponsor needs to complete a sponsorship form which should be provided with an application.
- Generally visas are not issued to people who, although keen to pursue a relationship with somebody they have been communicating with over the internet, they have not actually met or spent time together in person.

Applicants do not need to purchase airline tickets prior to getting a visa application approved.

- It is not necessary to provide cash to demonstrate funds when applying for a visa.
- It is not necessary to apply in person at the Moscow branch, in fact most applications are received by mail, and the sponsor can pay application fees in New Zealand.
- Immigration New Zealand can verify any New Zealand visa or financial requirements.

Up to date information is available on the Immigration New Zealand website (www.immigration.govt.nz). Checklists and information sheets in English and Russian are available under the Moscow Branch section (www.immigration.govt.nz/branch/MoscowBranchHome).

Immigration New Zealand is keen to see an end to these types of scams. We recommend you carefully consider any request to send money to somebody you do not know. Should you get caught by a internet scam, unfortunately we cannot assist in reclaiming money or locating fraudsters.