



GOVERNMENT OF THE PITCAIRN ISLANDS

IMMIGRATION, VISA & SETTLEMENT INFORMATION POLICY

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- A. ANNEX A: GPI SETTLEMENT APPLICATION FORM
- B. ANNEX B: GPI ENTRY CLEARANCE FORM FOR LTV & BUINESS
- C. NEW MIGRANT HOME LAND APPLICATION FORM
- D. NEW MIGRANT TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION APPLICATION FORM

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INTRODUCTION

i. REFERENCES

Laws of the Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands:

- Immigration Control Ordinance 20XX
- Land Tenure Reform Ordinance 20XX

GPI Policies

- GPI Pitcairn Health Centre Operational Policy
- GPI Health Funding Policy
- GPI Pitcairn Island Loan Scheme Policy
- GPI Personal Loan Scheme Policy
- GPI Subsidised Travel and Baggage Allowance Policy
- GPI Employment Policy
- GPI Employment Guidance
- GPI Safeguarding Children Policy
- GPI Education Policy
- GPI Partners Communication Policy

ii. RATIONALE

The Government of The Pitcairn Islands and the Pitcairn Island Council welcomes applications for Settlement, short or long-term visitor visas, business visas, work permits and, when applicable for new migrants, land on which to build a first home on Pitcairn.

iii. OBJECTIVE

This policy provides prospective applicants and the Pitcairn Council with current and accurate, information about Settlement, visitor visas, work permits, and Council held first home land for new migrants.

iv. ABBREVIATIONS

GPI.	.	.	Government of The Pitcairn Islands
DG.	.	.	Deputy Governor
PIO.	.	.	The Pitcairn Island Office
PIC.	.	.	The Pitcairn Island Council
GPI SA.	.	.	Government of The Pitcairn Islands Settlement Application
GPI SA Form.	.	.	Government of The Pitcairn Islands Settlement Application Form
GPI LTV.	.	.	Government of The Pitcairn Islands Long-Term Entry Clearance Visa
GPI BV.	.	.	Government of The Pitcairn Islands Business Visa
GT.	.	.	The Government Treasury Office
PI-IO.	.	.	Pitcairn Island Immigration Officer
LAT.	.	.	Land Allocation Title
Normally Resident.	.	.	This refers to those who, having been granted settlement by The Governor, normally live on Pitcairn Island. It also refers to new migrants who, after having completed their 2-year settlement period, and having been granted permanent resident status by the Governor, normally live

on Pitcairn Island. It also refers to those with right of abode who normally live on Pitcairn Island.

v. SETTLEMENT VISA

Those wishing to apply to live permanently on Pitcairn Island are required to submit a GPI Settlement Application (SA Form) to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance. See Contacts & Annex A (GPI Settlement Application form).

vi. LONG-TERM VISITOR VISA

Those wishing to apply to visit the Pitcairn Islands for more than 14 days are required to submit a Long-term Entry Clearance Visa application to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance. See Contacts and Annex B (GPI Entry Clearance Application form for LTV and Business).

This criterion includes long term scientific researchers and, if applicable, those also applying for Business Visas.

vii. BUSINESS VISA

Those wishing to apply to visit the Pitcairn Islands to undertake business, research and/or media production for commercial gain, are required to submit a Business Visa application to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance (see Contacts and Annex B).

PROVISIONS

1.0. HOW TO APPLY TO LIVE PERMANENTLY ON PITCAIRN ISLAND

- 1.1. Prospective applicants are encouraged to research and review information at www.immigration.pn before submitting a GPI SA.
- 1.2. Prospective applicants are encouraged to review the GPI Passenger Shipping schedule at www.visitpitcairn.pn to consider suitable travel dates and/or contact the GPI Tourism Coordinator (see Contacts).
- 1.3. Applicants can download a GPI SA form from www.immigration.pn or contact the PI-IO to request a form via email (see Contacts).
- 1.4. If more than one person is applying to live permanently on Pitcairn, each should submit a separate GPI SA form.
- 1.5. Parents/guardians can submit a GPI SA form on behalf of a minor (i.e., a person under the age of 18).
- 1.6. Applicants are required to send a scanned copy of their completed SA forms along with a scanned copy of their passport bio page to the PI-IO and the PIO in the first instance.

At that time, applicants are also required to attach a police certificate or letter from every jurisdiction in which they have resided, disclosing whether they have any convictions and the nature of those convictions (see Contacts and Annex A).

- 1.7. Upon receipt of a GPI SA, the PIO and/or the PI-IO will respond to the applicant to advise that their application has been received.

- 1.8. The PI-IO and the PIO will undertake an initial review of the application. If an application is deemed to be non-credible at this point it will be deleted and no further correspondence will be entered into.
- 1.9. When an application is deemed credible, the PIO will issue an invoice for payment of the GPI SA fee with payment instructions. The PIO and/or the PI-IO may request further documentation needed to complete any sections of the form which may have been missed.
- 1.10. If the GPI SA fee is not paid within 60 days the application will not be progressed.
- 1.11. On receipt of payment the reviewed GPI SA is submitted to the PIC for consideration at the next available sitting of the PIC. Following the determination of the PIC, the applicant will be advised about the status of their application, i.e., that it has been either progressed to the next step, or declined.
- 1.12. The GPI is not obligated to provide a reason as to why a particular application has been declined.
- 1.13. When the PIC recommends that a GPI SA be progressed to the next step, the Island Secretary will advise the PI-IO of that decision. The PI-IO will convey this decision to the Deputy Governor, copying in the Mayor (as Chief Immigration Officer).

On receipt of Council's recommendation, the applicant will be contacted by the office of the Deputy Governor to progress the application and to set a time for the settlement interview.

- 1.14. The settlement interview can take place in person, virtually or by phone. At that time applicants may be asked for further information, including evidence of income and (if applicable) information about the applicant's identified sponsor.
- 1.15. Following the GPI SA interview, the Governor of the Pitcairn Islands will either approve or decline an application. Applicants will be informed in writing as to whether an application has been approved or declined.
- 1.16. The Governor is not obligated to provide a reason as to why a particular application has been declined.

2.0. WHEN A GPI SETTLEMENT VISA IS APPROVED

- 2.1. When a GPI SA is approved, the applicant will receive a letter from the Governor granting Entry Clearance to settle on Pitcairn.
- 2.2. Those approved for settlement are required, under the Pitcairn Island Immigration Control Ordinance, to arrive at Pitcairn within 12 months of the date of their letter of approval from the Governor.
- 2.3. Should an approved new settler not be able to meet this requirement, they must contact the PI-IO to discuss options (see Contacts). The PI-IO will pass this information to the Deputy Governor and the PIC for consideration.

3.0. GPI MANAGEMENT OF ACTIVE SETTLEMENT APPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The Offices of the Governor, Deputy Governor, the PIO, the PIC, and the PI-IO have agreed to adhere to the following procedures and timeframes when managing and communicating on active GPI SAs.

STEP	ACTIVITY	MAX TIMEFRAMES
1.	The PI IO responds to all GPI SA enquiries in the first instance.	5 working days
2.	Applicants email their GPI SA forms to PI IO, copied to the PIO.	n/a
3.	The PIO acknowledges receipt of a GPI SA and issues an invoice for payment of the application fee. The GPI SA becomes active on receipt of payment. The DG undertakes passport checks and informs the PI IO of clearance.	5 working days
4.	The PI IO reviews the active GPI SA and completes Part 1 of the GPI SA rating form.	5 working days
5.	The PI IO submits the active GPI SA and Part 1 of the GPI SA Rating Form to the Mayor (as Chief Immigration Officer), via the Island Secretary for Council's consideration.	By next available Council meeting

6.	The PIC makes a recommendation, to either decline or progress the GPI SA. Their recommendation is conveyed, by the Island Secretary to the PI IO who then asks the Governor, via the Deputy Governor, to either decline or approve the active GPI SA If an active GPI SA is declined, applicant will be advised accordingly. The Deputy Governor is not obligated to provide a reason why a particular application has been declined.	5 working days after Council
	When Council recommends a GPI SA should be progressed, the following applies.	
7.	7.a. The Deputy Governor issues a written response to the applicant to set a time for a settlement interview, explaining the interview process, timeframes involved and requesting any required financial evidence.	60 working days
	7b. The Deputy Governor will obtain any required financial evidence from the applicant(s), which will be checked.	As with 7 above, within 60 working days
	7c. It is the responsibility of the Deputy Governor to ensure that the settlement interview is noted and Part 2 of the GPI SA Rating form completed The Deputy Governor provides the PIC Mayor with a copy of the Settlement interview notes.	As with 7 above within 60 working days
.	7d. Following the interview, the Deputy Governor makes formal recommendation to the Governor to either decline or grant Entry Clearance for Settlement to the applicant based on the verifiable information gathered.	5 working days
8.	The Governor approves the Deputy Governor's recommendation.	10 working days

9.	The Deputy Governor informs the PI IO, in writing, of the Governor's decision. The Governor's decision is final.	10 working days
10.	The PI IO, via the mayor, as Chief Immigration Officer and the Island Secretary, conveys the Governor's decision to the PIC.	Next available Council meeting
12.	The Governor writes to the applicant to formally grant Entry Clearance for Settlement.	10 working days from Point 9.
13.	The approved new migrant presents their Entry Clearance letter to the PI IO on arrival at Pitcairn Island. If there are valid reasons why an approved new migrant cannot travel to Pitcairn to initiate settlement, within the prescribed time frames, they may apply to the Governor for an extension.	12 months from Point 12.

4.0. APPLYING TO WORK ON PITCAIRN ISLAND

- 4.1. Short or long-term visitors and those approved for settlement may apply for advertised work positions on Pitcairn.
- 4.2. Only or long-term visitors must apply, in writing to the Pitcairn Island Council, via the Island Secretary for a Work Permit. A fee of NZ

5.0. NEW MIGRANT HOME LAND

Approved new settlers can apply to the Pitcairn Island Council for a one-off New Settler Home Land within their 2-year (non-consecutive) settlement period.

- 5.1. Under the Immigration Control Ordinance (Part V, Section 12(2)) immigrants arriving for settlement will not be considered for permanent residence until two years after entry. The Land Tenure Reform Ordinance (Part III, Section 4(2)) reflects this requirement, making provision for only those normally resident on Pitcairn (or former permanent residents) to apply for land.
- 5.2. The PIC, HMG and the office of the Attorney General recognize that the 2-year time frame required within the Land Tenure Reform Ordinance (Part III, Section 4(2)) may hinder the prospects of new migrants' being able to purposefully build a life on Pitcairn.

Therefore, under the GPI Immigration Visa & Settlement Information Policy the Island Council, in agreement with HMG and the office of the Attorney General, makes provision for approved new migrants, who have sufficient funds to build a home, to request the PIC to make application to the Lands Court for a leasehold land section on which to build a first home.
- 5.3. When approved new settlers have completed their 2-year (non-consecutive) settlement period they are eligible to access the GPI Home and Personal Loan schemes.
- 5.4. New settlers are required to submit a New Migrant Home Land Application to the Mayor and PIC, via the Island Secretary, requesting that it make application to the Lands Court for a one-off home land section, on which the new settler can build a first home.
- 5.5. New Settler Home Land Applications may be made to Island Council at any time within the 2 (non-consecutive permanent residency period. However, a request will not be progressed until such time as the applicant(s) are on-island.

- 5.6. The New Settler Home Land request form is available via the Island Secretary (see Contacts and Annex C).
- 5.7. On receipt of a New Settler Home Land request, the Mayor will assign a Councillor as primary liaison to the applicant.
- 5.8. The mayor will table the New Settler Home Land Request at the next available PIC meeting and advise the Island Secretary/Land Registrar, to alert the Lands Court that a request has been lodged, prior to making formal application to the Lands Court.
- 5.9. When the Lands Court grants New Settler Home land, to the PIC, the land's LAT is held by PIC, for the new settler(s), until such time as they reach the 2-year permanent residency requirement.
- 5.10. When new settlers have resided on Pitcairn for 2 (non-consecutive) years they will receive formal notification, from the Governor, stating they have been granted permanent residency.
- 5.11. When new settlers who have utilized Council's New Settler Home Land offer, have been granted permanent residency they must then write to the Mayor, via the Island Secretary to request that Council notifies the Lands Court to request that the LAT for the land in questions be transferred to the new settler as lease holder.
- 5.12. New settlers who make request to the PIC to apply to the Lands Court, for New Settler Home Land, will do so with the understanding of the risks associated with not possessing leasehold tenure of the land.

For example, if a new migrant is not granted permanent resident status after 2 non-consecutive years and is not subsequently granted leasehold tenure of the land by the Lands Court, the land will remain allocated to the PIC and the PIC will not be liable to provide compensation to the new settler, including for any costs incurred in relation to the development of the land or the construction of any structure on it.

- 5.13. A New Settler Home Land site, held by the PIC, will be no bigger than 1,500 SQM. 1,500 SQM is large enough to build a comfortable home with a domestic garden and orchard.
- 5.14. The PIC will not apply to the Lands Court, for a LAT, on any other type of land category, for a new settler, under this policy, including business or commercial land.

6.0. NEW MIGRANT TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION

- 6.1. The following options exist for providing existing accommodation for new settlers when they first arrive at Pitcairn should they not have family living on Pitcairn.
- 6.2. Temporary home-stay accommodation with a local family can be arranged by the applicant. Options can be found at www.visitpitcairn.pn
- 6.3. There are also a few private self-catering rental options. Details of these options can also be found at www.visitpitcairn.pn
- 6.4. The PIC encourages accommodation providers/homeowners and prospective tenants to establish mutually agreeable and sustainable long-term arrangements that work for both parties. However, it is recognised that such arrangements are private.
- 6.5. Short-term government accommodation options are also available for rent. The availability and arrangements for tenancy will be determined by the PIC and HMG Administrator.

- 6.6. New settlers are required to make their application, in writing, to the PIC via the Island Secretary for possible short-term government accommodation, prior to submitting a GPI SA or, if needed, in advance of returning to the island, within their 2-year (non-consecutive) settlement period.
- 6.7. New settlers are not permitted to camp on non-residential land or Council managed land whilst awaiting home land application approval. This being due to fire risk management and health and safety.
- 6.8. New settlers may camp on land occupied by an existing, resident homeowner if given permission to do so, for an agreed period.

7.0. SUBSIDISED FREIGHT FOR NEW MIGRANTS

- 7.1. Approved new settlers are entitled to the subsidised freight cost of NZ \$350.00 per cubic metre within their 2-year (non-consecutive) permanent residency qualification period, for household goods shipped to Pitcairn for settlement.
- 7.2. Approved new settlers who wish to build their first home (within their 2-year non-consecutive permanent residency qualification period) are entitled to the subsidised freight cost of NZ \$350.00 per cubic metre. This rate applies to all building / construction materials, fittings and tools. This provision excludes water tanks which are freight free.
- 7.3. After new settlers have been granted permanent residency, they continue to be entitled to subsidised freight costs of NZ \$350.00 per cubic metre. This provision excludes water tanks which remain freight free.

8.0. CONTAINER SHIPPING – SIZE REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1. Only 6ft containers are permissible for freighting goods from NZ to Pitcairn on the GPI chartered vessel. This being due to Pitcairn's limited unloading facilities and health and safety requirements for longboat crew and landing personnel. Goods too large for 6ft containers are managed as break bulk.

9.0. SUBSIDISED TRAVEL ON THE GPI CHARTER VESSEL FOR APPROVED NEW SETTLERS

- 9.1. Approved new settlers are entitled to travel between Pitcairn / Mangareva and/or New Zealand at the subsidised local rate of NZ \$500.00 per person, each way.

10.0. REGISTERING AND OPERATING A BUSINESS ON PITCAIRN ISLAND

- 10.1. Approved new settlers may register and operate a business on Pitcairn from the time they first arrive at Pitcairn and begin their 2-year permanent residency qualifying period.

11.0. EDUCATION

- 11.1. GPI SAs with children should discuss educational needs with the DG when interviewed.

12.0. MEDICAL TREATMENT AND MEDICATION COSTS

- 12.1. New approved settlers are required to provide evidence of private medical/travel insurance prior to travelling to Pitcairn. Private travel/medical insurance must be maintained by approved new settlers throughout their 2 year (non-consecutive) permanent residency period see GPI Health Centre Operational Policy.

New approved settlers are required to pay full costs for medical treatment and medications at the Pitcairn Island Health Centre through-out their 2 year (non-consecutive) permanent residency period. See GPI Health Centre Operational Policy.

13.0. FREIGHT ON WATER TANKS

13.1. Domestic water tanks purchased and shipped from New Zealand by new settlers, approved for settlement, and permanent Pitcairn residents are free of GPI freight costs.

14.0. CONTACTS

Pitcairn Islands Immigration Officer immigration@pitcairn.gov.pn

The Pitcairn Island Office (Auckland) admin@pitcairn.gov.pn

Visit Pitcairn Website www.visitpitcairn.pn

GPI Travel Coordinator tourism@pitcairn.pn

Immigration Website www.immigration.pn