



07 SEP 2020

Nick Farlow
fyi-request-13149-8fbfb4e6@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 1920 – 1810

Dear Nick Farlow

Thank you for your email on 25 June 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

There is much talk at present about "bringing NZers home from overseas". This implies presumably that those individuals left prior to NZ's borders being 'closed'.

I note that travel overseas is not necessarily prohibited though advised against. Please advise how many people are or have been in compulsory quarantine, where those people also left NZ during the quarantine period. (e.g had initially left NZ after 20 March 2020 and subsequently returned)

We contacted you by email on 29 June 2020 requesting that you provide clarification on your request. To date we did not receive a response from you. We are therefore interpreting your request as:

The number of New Zealanders (New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders) who departed New Zealand on or after 20 March 2020 and have since returned, and have been held in mandatory isolation or quarantine facilities upon their return.

Our response


Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not hold readily reportable information on a definitive number of New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders who departed, returned, and have been held in a managed isolation or quarantine facility. While the Managed Isolation and Quarantine branch of the Ministry holds information on numbers of people who have been held in a facility, to obtain this detailed information for you would require staff to manually and individually cross-reference the records of every person who have been held in a managed isolation or quarantine facility against INZ records to determine their last date of departure from New Zealand, and whether they were a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder. The information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research, and is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.

However, to assist your request, we are providing some information held based on immigration movement records of people entering and exiting New Zealand. Please note this figure is being provided to you as an indicative figure only, and is not a conclusive answer to your request.

From 19 March 2020 at 11:59pm, the New Zealand border was closed to all except New Zealand citizens or residents. From 10 April 2020 all arrivals into New Zealand were required to undergo managed isolation or quarantine. We can advise our entry and exit movement records indicate that **1,974** New Zealand citizens or residence class visa holders departed New Zealand on or after 20 March 2020, and have returned at a date between 10 April 2020 and 8 August 2020 (inclusive). This figure is captured as of the information we held on 8 August 2020. Please note this figure includes air crew and seafarers, who are subject to alternative isolation arrangements, as we do not hold sufficient information to conclusively identify and exclude them from the figure.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Chung Man Charmaine Ho, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Charmaine.Ho@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. McGill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve McGill

Acting General Manager - Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment