



20 October 2020

John Palethorpe

fyi-request-13235-1c3dd3ce@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-0696

Dear John,

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act): which was transferred to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) on 28 September 2020. You requested:

“the numbers of asylum seekers held in New Zealand correctional facilities over the last five years and the length of time which each person was held there”

Information in response to your request is attached in Appendix One. Please note that the majority of asylum seekers are not detained at any stage. Any decision to detain is made in relation to concerns about identity, or the safety and security of New Zealand. Some asylum seekers are initially held in custody at the port of arrival if there are security or identity issues. Where appropriate, they are usually accommodated at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC).

INZ is committed to processing all asylum claims as efficiently as possible. Fairness and quality of decision-making are important, as well as a timely process. Some detained claimants may appeal a finally declined claim to the courts, or lodge a subsequent claim, which may add time to their detention.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. If you wish to discuss this response, please email

INZOfficialCorrespondence@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Vaughan
General Manager – Verification and Compliance
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Table 1: No of claimants and total detention days (2015)

Claimant Detention Days	Number of Claimants
58	1
115	1
147	1
422	1
502	1
649	1
TOTAL¹	6

¹ The tables show the first year a claimant was detained.

Table 2: No of claimants and total detention days (2016)

Claimant Detention Days	Number of Claimants
1	1
8	1
30	1
37	1
38	1
52	1
64	1
87	1
88	1
105	1
107	1
124	1
128	1
157	1
182	1
204	1
321	1
437	1
504	1
576	1
TOTAL¹	20

¹ The tables show the first year a claimant was detained.

Table 3: No of claimants and total detention days (2017)

Claimant Detention Days	Number of Claimants
21	2
37	1
59	2
63	1
64	1
66	1
69	1
72	1
79	1
95	1
498	1
1178	1
TOTAL¹	14

¹ The tables show the first year a claimant was detained.

Table 4: No of claimants and total detention days (2018)

Claimant Detention Days	Number of Claimants
16	1
77	1
80	1
134	1
140	1
157	1
163	1
185	1
192	1
225	1
235	1
274	1
341	1
457	1
TOTAL¹	14

¹ The tables show the first year a claimant was detained.

Table 5: No of claimants and total detention days (2019)

Claimant Detention Days	Number of Claimants
5	1
21	1
29	1
37	1
42	1
48	1
49	1
55	1
99	1
106	1
114	1
116	1
137	1
144	1
145	1
146	1
162	1
169	1
272	1
442	1
484	1
TOTAL¹	21

¹ The tables show the first year a claimant was detained.

Table 6: No of claimants and total detention days (as at 30 September 2020)

Claimant Detention Days	Number of Claimants
17	1
19	1
TOTAL¹	2

¹ The tables show the first year a claimant was detained.