



Beth

fyi-request-13284-fd54a906@requests.fyi.org.nz

23 July 2020

File No: DOIA 2021 – 0091

Dear Beth,

Thank you for your email on 12 July 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

Could you please provide the following information: How many Border Exemption Visas related to COVID 19 have been granted to people over the age of 65? Under what category those border exemptions were granted? (Partner NZ Citizen, Health worker etc) If the visa granted was a Variation of conditions what was the original visa held? How many of the people over 65 have entered the country since their visa was granted?

Our response

On 14 July 2020 we sought to establish your entitlement to make requests for official information. We sent you a follow up email on 17 July 2020. To date, we have not received a response. We are not satisfied that you are legally entitled to make this request and accordingly we are not obligated to respond.

Please note that the New Zealand border is closed to most travellers with the exception of New Zealand citizens and residents and people who have a critical purpose to travel to New Zealand and are granted a border exception to come here. This is to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of people already in New Zealand.

The bar for being granted an exception to the border restrictions is set high to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of people already in New Zealand. Requests for exceptions to the border restrictions are considered against the strict criteria as set out in immigration instructions.

You have the right to contest the decision to withhold information by seeking an investigation and review of that decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.



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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg', written in a cursive style.

Nicola Hogg
General Manager – Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment