



21 April 2021

Philip

fyi-request-14936-6783e777@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1829

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your email of 17 March 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

- “1. How many Culturally Arranged Marriage visa application are currently pending for allocation and also when they were lodged? Request list with Month and year they were lodged.*
- 2. Average timeframe for Case officer allocation since 2019.*
- 3. Average time for decision on the application from the time of lodgement. Please list out for 2019, 2020 and 2021”*

Our Response

Question One: “How many Culturally Arranged Marriage visa application are currently pending for allocation and also when they were lodged? Request list with Month and year they were lodged.”

As at 23 March 2021, there are 2 Culturally Arranged Marriage (CAM) Visitor Visa applications awaiting allocation to a case officer. Both applications were accepted for processing by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) in March 2021.

Question Two: “Average timeframe for Case officer allocation since 2019”

We have interpreted this part of your request to be for the average time taken for a CAM Visitor Visa application to be allocated to a case officer since 2019.

This information is not held in a reportable format. INZ measure average processing times in calendar days from the time an application is accepted for processing, to when the application has been finalised and completed in the Immigration Application Management System. To provide you this information would require a staff member to manually review each individual CAM Visitor Visa application received since 2019, to determine the average time it took for each application to be allocated to a case officer. As such, we have refused this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA, because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

This task would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested but I have concluded, in both cases, the Ministry’s ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Question Three: "Average time for decision on the application from the time of lodgement. Please list out for 2019, 2020 and 2021"

Please refer to table one below which provides the average calendar days taken to process CAM Visitor Visa applications. This has been broken down by percentiles within 6 monthly intervals for applications completed from 1 January 2019 to 23 March 2021.


Table One

Decision date period	No. of Applications	50% completed within: (days)	75% completed within: (days)	90% completed within: (days)
1Jan19 - 30Jun19	70	68	135	184
1Jul19 - 31Dec19	49	63	101	125
1Jan20 - 30Jun20	47	79	111	158
1Jul20 - 31Dec20	57	274	297	333
1Jan21- 23Mar21	87	299	350	377

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decision to refuse parts of your request. 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 Lautalie Leausa Vaa, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Hogg
General Manager - Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand