



21 April 2021

Rachel

fyi-request-14981-5aee118a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1868

Dear Rachel,

Thank you for your email of 23 March 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

Could you please provide information in regards to the following?

*In respect to Character requirements contained at A5 of the Operations Manual.
Could we please have the statistics for the past 3 years (financial July/June) 2018-2019,
2019-2020, 2020-2021:*

- 1. The total number of applicants who were granted a character waiver in relation to a drink driving conviction as part of a residence application.*
- 2. The total number of applicants who were declined a character waiver in relation to a drink driving conviction as part of a residence application.*
- 3. The total number of applicants who were granted a character waiver in relation to a drink driving conviction as part of a Temporary visa application.*
- 4. The total number of applicants who were declined a character waiver in relation to a drink driving conviction as part of a Temporary visa application.*

Our Response

Table one below shows the total number of residence and temporary visa applications that were approved and declined between 1 July 2018 and 7 April 2021 (inclusive):

Decision	Residence Applications (Financial year completed)			Temporary Applications (Financial year completed)		
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (Partial year)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 (Partial year)
Approved	30,938	28,738	30,318	973,185	713,316	248,528
Declined	2,024	1,480	1,526	66,220	50,824	5,827

Unfortunately, a further breakdown to show the number of applications that were approved or declined a character waiver in relation to a drink driving conviction, is information not held in a reportable format. Immigration New Zealand (INZ) records the final decision in the Immigration Application Management

System (AMS) as approved or declined. In order to obtain the level of information you have requested would require a staff member to manually review each individual application in table one, to identify the applications that would fall within scope of your request.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Hogg', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

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