



18 May 2021

Philip

[fyi-request-15261-0d1d3933@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15261-0d1d3933@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: DOIA 2021-2138

Dear Philip

I refer to your email of 23 April 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry), requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*"1. Can I get latest update on Culturally Arranged Marriage visa applications that are currently pending for allocation and also when they were lodged?"*

*2. Why there is delay in processing applications from 1Jul20 till date ? (50% of applications completed in 274 + days compared to previous periods with average of around 70 days) INZ website still indicates : 90% of applications are currently completed within 5 months. Please clarify."*

**Our response**

- 1. Can I get latest update on Culturally Arranged Marriage visa applications that are currently pending for allocation and also when they were lodged?*

As at 10 May 2021 there were 26 Entry for a cultural marriage visitor visa applications that are in a queue, awaiting allocation to an Immigration officer for assessment. The table below shows the breakdown of when these applications were accepted by Immigration New Zealand.

<b>Month Accepted</b>	<b>Entry for a cultural marriage visitor visa applications awaiting allocation to an Immigration Officer for assessment</b>
Aug-19	
Nov-19	
Jan-20	<=5
Feb-20	<=5
Mar-20	<=5
Jun-20	
Aug-20	<=5
Nov-20	
Dec-20	<=5
Jan-21	
Feb-21	
Mar-21	<=5
Apr-21	11
May-21	7
Total	26

NB: Numbers less than 5 are shown as <=5 to protect the privacy of natural persons

2. *Why there is delay in processing applications from 1Jul20 till date ? (50% of applications completed in 274 + days compared to previous periods with average of around 70 days) INZ website still indicates : 90% of applications are currently completed within 5 months. Please clarify."*

Visa processing for most offshore applicants is on hold. This is because legally INZ is not able to grant a visa to individuals who are unlikely to meet entry requirements. Priority for temporary visa processing is being given to applications for critical workers to support the Government response to COVID-19 and for temporary visa applicants who are in New Zealand.

The timeliness figures displayed on the Immigration New Zealand website are weighted averages calculated for the following three visa categories:

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Substream</b>	<b>Category</b>
<b>Visitor's</b>	Relationship	Dependents of a long term worker/student
<b>Visitor's</b>	Relationship	Entry for a cultural marriage
<b>Visitor's</b>	Relationship	Partnership

Weighted averages of groups of visa categories from the same sub-streams are used for small or niche categories. The timeliness figures provided to you in response to your previous request for information (reference 2021-1829) however were specific to the Entry for a cultural marriage category.

If you wish to discuss this response, please email [INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz)

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



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