



29 October 2021

Grant Johnson

fyi-request-16948-d5066db0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2120-0757

Dear Grant Johnson,

Thank you for your email of 30 September 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

"1. The number of skilled migrant stream resident applications awaiting allocation who will not be eligible for the 2021 Resident visa, broken down by onshore/offshore status of the primary applicant.

2. The number of expressions of interest (EOI) in the Skilled Migrant Category pool who will not be eligible for the 2021 Resident visa, broken down by onshore/offshore status of the primary applicant.

For all of the above, please provide both the number of applications/EOIs as well as the number of applicants these represent (that is, including partners and dependent children)."

Our Response

It is estimated that the 2021 Resident Visa will provide a simplified pathway to residence for around 165,000 migrants currently in New Zealand. The eligibility criteria can be found at the following link at <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/already-have-a-visa/one-off-residence-visa>.

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not hold information on the number of applicants who will not be eligible for the 2021 Resident Visa. You are in effect asking INZ to make a prediction and we are not prepared to undertake such speculation. Any data we attempt to provide at present would not be accurate due to the multiple variables in the eligibility criteria and would not necessarily reflect the applicants' circumstances. There are also no reasonable grounds to believe it is held by, or more closely connected with the functions of, another Minister or agency. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act because the information does not exist.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision to withhold information from the released documents. The relevant contact details are as follows:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO BOX 10152 Wellington 6143
PH 0800 802 602
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz



If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact INZOIAs@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 & Employment