

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Justice
Minister for Broadcasting and Media
Minister of Immigration



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OIA21-292

Julius Cardillo
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Dear Julius

Thank you for your email of 21 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"1. The number of 2021 Resident Visa applications submitted per day, side by side the number of applications which were sent for New Zealand Police Checks, side by side the number of applications which were granted approval in principle. Example:

1 Dec 2021

of submitted applications = x

of submitted applications which were sent for NZ Police Checks = y # of submitted applications which were approved in principle = z

2 Dec 2021

of submitted applications = a

of submitted applications which were sent for NZ Police Checks = b # of submitted applications which were approved in principle = c

and so on...

2. The INZ webpage entitled "2021 Resident Visa eligibility" states that "INZ will undertake New Zealand Police checks for all 2021 Resident Visa applicants aged 17 years or older, regardless of how long they have been in New Zealand."

a. Does the statement "for all 2021 Resident Visa applicants aged 17 years or older" mean that INZ will go through police checks regardless if the individual(s) have gone through a similar police check within a certain period of time in view of their applications for other visas. If the answer to this question is "No", why didn't INZ make it public what the specific criteria or circumstances are for when INZ will undergo NZ Police check besides the current information that states ALL applicants aged 17 above regardless of their length of stay in NZ?

b. I understand that timeframes of deciding 2021 Resident Visa applications are dependent on a variety of factors. But this question pertains to the NZ Police Check alone. For the purpose of clarity, the scenario is:

Person A – Submitted a 2021 Resident Visa application and the application was deemed complete by INZ. NZ Police Check was requested on 3 December 2021.

Person B – Submitted a 2021 Resident Visa application and the application was deemed complete by INZ. NZ Police Check was requested on 8 December 2021.

Question: On the basis of NZ Police Check process alone, in what circumstances would Person B's application progress further to a decision as compared to Person A?"

Please find my response to your request below:

Part 1

Please refer to Appendix One.

Part 2a

Applicants for all visas must be of good character and not pose a potential security risk to New Zealand. Applicants aged 17 years and over applying under the 2021 Resident Visa category are not required to provide a police certificate or similar from their country of citizenship or any country they have lived in for 12 months or more (whether on one visit or intermittently) in the last 10 years, except for a New Zealand Police Check.

A New Zealand Police Check is required regardless of the duration they have lived in New Zealand and Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will request this from the New Zealand Police on the applicant's behalf.

Further details on the character and police certificate requirements are outlined in the immigration instructions which are available on the INZ website at:

www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/already-have-a-visa/one-off-residence-visa/2021-resident-visa-eligibility

Part 2b

This is not a request for official information. An application under the 2021 Resident Visa category will be approved if an Immigration Officer is satisfied that the applicant meets all the relevant requirements. You can find the immigration instructions at:

www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#76356.htm

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



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Minister of Immigration

Appendix One

Number of 2021 Resident Visa applications submitted to INZ, number of applications (not applicants) sent for New Zealand Police Checks, and number of applications (not applicants) approved, broken down by day, from 1 December 2021 to 11 January 2022 (inclusive).

Note that the numbers are daily statistics and are not cumulative. Numbers equal to or smaller than five are considered information that could identify a visa applicant therefore these numbers have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA because it is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons.

1-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	1358
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	254
Number of submitted applications approved	0
2-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	2497
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	350
Number of submitted applications approved	0
3-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	2167
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	433
Number of submitted applications approved	0
4-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	1545
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	489
Number of submitted applications approved	0
5-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	574
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	76
Number of submitted applications approved	0
6-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	810
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	436
Number of submitted applications approved	30
7-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	492
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	585
Number of submitted applications approved	35
8-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	382
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	618
Number of submitted applications approved	52
9-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	319
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	573
Number of submitted applications approved	66
10-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	221
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	524
Number of submitted applications approved	59

11-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	111
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	575
Number of submitted applications approved	0
12-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	91
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	61
Number of submitted applications approved	0
13-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	160
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	492
Number of submitted applications approved	67
14-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	143
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	486
Number of submitted applications approved	98
15-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	156
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	399
Number of submitted applications approved	68
16-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	158
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	346
Number of submitted applications approved	103
17-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	114
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	376
Number of submitted applications approved	118
18-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	50
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	601
Number of submitted applications approved	0
19-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	58
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	101
Number of submitted applications approved	0
20-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	88
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	385
Number of submitted applications approved	91
21-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	106
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	387
Number of submitted applications approved	130
22-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	102
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	264
Number of submitted applications approved	133
23-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	92
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	247
Number of submitted applications approved	125

24-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	61
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	124
Number of submitted applications approved	77
25-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	15
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	≤ 5
Number of submitted applications approved	0
26-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	9
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	0
Number of submitted applications approved	0
27-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	18
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	≤ 5
Number of submitted applications approved	0
28-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	21
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	≤ 5
Number of submitted applications approved	0
29-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	22
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	87
Number of submitted applications approved	46
30-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	31
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	114
Number of submitted applications approved	25
31-Dec-21	
Number of submitted applications	14
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	82
Number of submitted applications approved	39
1-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	10
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	0
Number of submitted applications approved	0
2-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	9
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	0
Number of submitted applications approved	0
3-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	7
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	0
Number of submitted applications approved	0
4-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	12
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	0
Number of submitted applications approved	0
5-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	29
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	128
Number of submitted applications approved	82

6-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	34
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	174
Number of submitted applications approved	88
7-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	23
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	175
Number of submitted applications approved	64
8-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	17
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	≤ 5
Number of submitted applications approved	0
9-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	12
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	≤ 5
Number of submitted applications approved	≤ 5
10-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	50
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	131
Number of submitted applications approved	164
11-Jan-22	
Number of submitted applications	41
Number of submitted applications sent for New Zealand Police checks	65
Number of submitted applications approved	224