



5 July 2022

Holly Barlow  
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Ref: DOIA 2122-2224

Dear Holly,

Thank you for your email of 25 May 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*Can I please request information on the total number of offshore general visitor visa applications (not critical purpose visitor visas) that are in the queue awaiting allocation.*

On 31 May 2022 we sent you an email to clarify your request as visitor visa processing only re-opened to applicants in the Pacific Forum countries on 16 May 2022. On 7 June 2022, we sent a follow up email to which you responded on the same day, clarifying your request to:

*The total number of offshore general visitor visa applications (not critical purpose visitor visas) that are in the queue awaiting allocation, submitted since 16 August 2020.*

### **Our Response**

As at 9 June 2022, there have been a total of 947 General Visitor Visa applications lodged from offshore since 16 August 2020.

Of this number, a total of 413 General Visitor Visa applications are awaiting allocation to an Immigration officer for processing.

The remainder of the General Visitor Visa applications are to be refunded as they are to be lapsed or returned as they cannot be processed. Further information in regards to this cohort can be found on the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website:

[www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/border-closures-and-exceptions/refunds-for-visa-applications-that-cannot-be-processed](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/border-closures-and-exceptions/refunds-for-visa-applications-that-cannot-be-processed)

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact [inzoias@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:inzoias@mbie.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Hogg  
**General Manager, Border and Visa Operations**  
Immigration New Zealand

