



17 November 2022

Ref: OIA 22-217

R S Grant

By email: fyi-request-20776-14ad6cda@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe R S Grant

Request for information under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email dated 6 October 2022 to Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, the Minister for COVID-19 Response, which was transferred in part to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) on 19 October 2022 for response. You request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“1. How many individual NZ Traveller declarations have been received by the Government since the requirement was introduced? If easier, I would be happy with a directionally correct estimate rather than an exact number.”

The New Zealand Traveller Declaration system went live on 25 March 2022. As of 20 October 2022, air travellers departing for New Zealand are no longer required to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration.

In response to your request, I can advise that between 4 February 2022 (when the first pilot for the New Zealand Traveller Declaration started) and 19 October 2022:

- 2,171,504 Traveller Declarations were started
- 1,868,990 Traveller Declarations were submitted
- 1,841,364 Traveller Passes were issued.

There are a number of reasons why a person may start a Traveller Declaration but not complete it, for example, they cancel their travel plans. A Traveller Pass will not be issued (that is, turned back) if a person is ineligible to travel to New Zealand based on the information and evidence they have provided. A Traveller Declaration will be returned to the traveller for further information if there is an issue or error with the information provided, for example, if a document submitted was blurry or illegible.

Only records where a Traveller Pass was issued were passed over to the Ministry of Health (for contact tracing purposes if required). Some travellers completed more than one Traveller Declaration for the same flight.

If you have any queries in regard to this response, please contact the Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Servicing Team: OIA@customs.govt.nz.

Please note that Customs proactively releases responses to Official Information Act requests on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after we have sent it to you. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Black', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mathew Black
Programme Director, New Zealand Traveller Declaration