



9 December 2022

Abraham

fyi-request-21116-d68b1e9e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2223-1006

Dear Abraham,

Thank you for your emails of 12 November and 13 November 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1) *I would like information on what the expected verse actual timeframe is for National Security Checks to be completed by a third-party agency for the 2021 Residency Visa? I understand this may vary, but surely MBIE has an agreement with third parties on what the expected timeframe is for completion.*
- 2) *I would also like to know how many applicants requiring a National Security Check applied for this visa category?*
- 3) *Of those applying for a One Off 2021 Residency Visa and meeting the criteria of a National Security Check, how many have been completed so far to date?*

(Follow up request received on 13 November 2022)

- 4) *I would like information on what the expected verse actual timeframe is for National Security Checks (NSC) to be completed by a third party agency for the 2021 Residency Visa? I understand this may vary, but surely MBIE has an agreement with third parties on what the expected timeframe is for completion of a NSC. If this cannot be answered, What is the average waiting period for an applicant who requires a NSC for the 2021 Residency Visa?*
- 5) *I would also like to know how many 2021 Residency Visas Immigration New Zealand received which require the applicant to have a NSC completed?*
- 6) *How many NSC have been completed so far from the 2021 Residency Visa category?*

Our Response

On Wednesday 23 November 2022, the Ministry advised you of the transfer of part of question 1 of your request to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS), in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the Act.

Question 1

The part of this question that was not transferred to the NZSIS, regarding the agreed expected timeframe for National Security Checks (NSC), no such agreement is in place between the Ministry and the NZSIS. This information is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.



Question 2 and 3

The information you have requested is refused under section 6(a) of the Act, as the making available of that information would likely prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

Question 4

Please note we are not answering the parts of this question that repeat question one. For those parts, we refer you to our answer to question one.

Since the visa category opened, the average processing time for RV 2021 visa applications where an NSC is undertaken is 89 weekdays.

Question 5 and 6

These questions repeat questions two and three. We refer you to our answer to questions three and four.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact inzoias@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Hogg

General Manager, Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand