



New Zealand
Security Intelligence
Service
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31 January 2023

Abraham

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Tēnā koe Abraham

Official information request

I write regarding your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request seeking the following information:

I would like information on what the expected versus 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.

On 23 November 2022, the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment partially transferred this request to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) for response, in relation to the actual timeframe for national security checks (NSCs) to be completed. You were advised on 16 December 2022 that the time limit for responding to your request had been extended to 2 February 2023 because the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

I can advise that, as at 23 November 2022, the average NSC processing time for the 2021 Residency visa was 51.28 working days. The following information is relevant when interpreting this data:

- The definition of a response to a NSC includes some applications that we have referred back to Immigration New Zealand for further information.
- The time taken to respond to individual NSC requests varies across the year, for a number of reasons.

Immigration New Zealand is still able to progress aspects of a case file while a NSC is being processed.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact uia.privacy@nzsis.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rebecca Kitteridge'.

Rebecca Kitteridge

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū
Director-General of Security