



13 February 2023

Chris

[fyi-request-21530-94c9d3c1@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-21530-94c9d3c1@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: DOIA 2223-1439

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your email of 7 January 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*How many people have been applying for an Arts and Music Festival Visitor Visa, how many have been approved, and how many have been denied?*

On 11 January 2023, we sent you a letter asking to specify the timeframe of your request.

On 23 January 2023, we received your response confirming that the timeframe of your request is

*“for the last 24 months”.*

### **Our Response**

Before 1 August 2022, when Immigration New Zealand (INZ) moved the visa category onto the enhanced Immigration Online system, applications for the Approved Arts and Music Festival visitor visa were recorded as general visitor visas and could not be identified without manually reviewing each visa application.

As INZ is still transitioning to this system, some Arts and Music Festival visitor visa applications are processed under the old system and are recorded as general visitor visas. This means that INZ can identify some but not all visa applications under this category.

In addition, people from visa waiver countries do not need to apply for a visitor visa. They may travel to New Zealand if they hold a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) and be granted a visitor visa on arrival. As such, performers and support crew cannot be distinguished from other visitors holding an NZeTA.

You can find more information about the countries eligible for the NZeTA here:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/preparing-a-visa-application/your-journey-to-new-zealand/before-you-travel-to-new-zealand/visa-waiver-countries>.

For the reasons outlined above, your request for information is refused under sections 18(e) and 18(f) of the Act as the information requested does not exist or cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

However, please refer to the table below presenting available data for the period from 1 August 2022 to 1 February 2023, retrieved from the enhanced Immigration Online system:

**Table: Number of people who applied for an Approved Arts and Music Festival visitor visa application lodged via the enhanced Immigration Online system from 1 August to 1 February 2023.**

Status	2022	2023	Total
Submitted	46	30	76
Approved	17	11	28
Declined	1	1	2

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the Ministry's response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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](mailto:inzoias@mbie.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely,



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