



28 February 2023

Isla Stewart

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Ref: DOIA – 2223 -1621

Dear Isla,

Thank you for your email of 26 January 2023, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*“In 2007, Estonia-New Zealand Working Holiday Scheme came into force. I write to request the following statistics from Immigration NZ:*

- 1. Total number of visa applications received under this scheme each year.*
- 2. Total number of accepted visa applications under this scheme each year*
- 3. Total number of declined visa applications under this scheme each year.*

*Should this information be available in a different form (for example, monthly) that will be fine also”*

On 20 February 2023, we sent you a letter asking you to clarify if you were requesting the number of ‘approved’ or ‘accepted’ applications in **Question Two** of your request. On the same date, you confirmed you wanted the number of ‘approved’ applications.

### **Our Response**

Please refer to **Appendix One** for the information you requested.

In late March 2020, New Zealand closed its borders to all but New Zealand citizens and critical workers who obtained border exceptions, hence there are no figures from April 2020, for all of 2021, and for the first two months of 2022. From March 2022, New Zealand started reopening its borders.

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,

**Michael Carley**

(Acting) General Manager, Border and Visa Operations  
Immigration New Zealand

## Appendix One

**Table One: The number of applications accepted under the Estonia Working Holiday Scheme from 1 April 2007 to 23 February 2023.**

Year/Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
January			5	4	13	15			
February		4	5	9	4	1			
March		9	10	4	4	3			
April	4	4	4	11	10	12	63	102	102
May	2	8	5	11	6	12	25	3	5
June	3	3	6	7	8	14	12		
July	7	3	7	10	9	14	8	2	
August	4	7	6	14	12	11	1	2	
September	10	1	7	6	11	20			
October	2	9	4	13	9	11			
November	4	6	5	4	14	16			
December	3	3	4	9	9	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>107</b>

Year/Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January					1			3
February					1			2
March	100	100	99	100			37	
April	6		6	1			13	
May				3			10	
June	1			1			7	
July				1			6	
August				2			6	
September							8	
October							20	
November	1						3	
December							7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table Two: The number of applications approved under the Estonia Working Holiday Scheme from 1 April 2007 to 23 February 2023.**

Year/Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
January		2	3	4	9	9			
February		2	8	2	11	9			
March		5	4	8	5	1			
April	1	6	9	3	3	12	34	62	83
May	4	4	2	16	6	7	30	36	18
June	3	6	6	6	8	9	19		
July	6	5	6	4	10	17	14		
August	1	7	7	7	8	9	3	1	
September	10	1	7	19	9	12		1	
October	3	8	7	7	9	16			
November	5	5	1	8	6	10			
December	1	2	7	3	13	11			
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>

Year/Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January								4
February								3
March		2		1	2			
April	95	94	95	89			39	
May	4		5	5			10	
June	1			2			6	
July				1			6	
August							5	
September							9	
October							16	
November							3	
December	1						6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>

**Table Three: The number of declined applications under the Estonia Working Holiday Scheme from 1 April 2007 to 23 February 2023.**

Year/Month	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
January					2	3			
February		1							
March		1	1						
April					2	1		2	3
May					1	1	3	4	3
June					1		3	1	
July				1	1	1	2		
August		1		1	1	3	1	2	
September			1		5	2			
October						1			
November		1		1	2	1			
December	1		2	2	3				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>

Year/Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January								
February								
March								
April	5	3	5	2				
May		1		3			3	
June	2			1			4	
July				2				
August								
September				2			2	
October							1	
November								
December							1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>			<b>11</b>	