



17 February 2023

Junlong

fyi-request-21652-d5870341@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2223-1648

Dear Junlong

Thank you for your email of 28 January 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I noticed that around Dec 2022 to Jan 2023, the processing time for 90% of Permanent Resident Visa application became 27 days, but now it is 11 months again, I would like to request what happened that made such a big change.

Also, I would like to request whether INZ requires applicants of China to provide National Security Check.

Our response

The reported average processing times have increased because INZ recently finalised a significant number of older permanent resident visa applications that had only been waiting on third party checks. Deciding these older applications impacted the reported average processing time.

As we have now completed these older applications, the reported processing times for permanent resident visa applications should shortly return to previous levels.

Regarding National Security Checks, anyone travelling to New Zealand must be of good character, not pose a security risk, and not threaten New Zealand's international reputation. All applications are assessed on a case by case basis against the applicable immigration instructions. Any criteria that determine whether an applicant does or does not require a National Security Check is withheld under section 6(c) of the Act as making this information available would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law.

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

Yours sincerely

Nicola Hogg
General Manager – Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment