



8 March 2023

D.Bali

fyi-request-21766-b39dfc79@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2223-1720

Dear D. Bali

Thank you for your email of 8 February 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

"I have some questions for which I could not find answers anywhere. The following are my questions:

- 1. How many applications are received and approved from Straight to residence which was started on 5th September 2022?*
- 2. Among received STR applications, how many applications are sent for third party check?*
- 3. What is the timeframe for STR third party checks? I know there is no time frame but for one of the OIA request, it was estimated 51days for One off 2021 applications by NZSIS.*
- 4. What is the actual number of staff working at INZ and how many are allocated to STR?*
- 5. What is the actual number of staff working at NZSIS and how many are allocated to STR applications?*
- 6. Addition to the above questions, what is the average processing time for STR applications with third party checks."*

On 27 February 2023 you were advised that MBIE transferred parts three and five of your request New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the New Zealand Police (Police) under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as the information is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of those agencies.

Our Response

Question One

As at 27 February 2023, the total number of Straight to Residence applications received since 5 September 2022 was 1,583. Of this, a total of 811 applications had been approved.

Question Two

This part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with s18A of the Act, I have considered whether fixing a charge under s15 or extending the time limit under s15(a) would enable the request to be granted but it is my view it would not. In accordance with s18B of the Act, I have also considered whether consulting with you would remove the reason for refusal, however, in my view it would not as to obtain the specific information would involve manually checking each Straight to Residence application to determine if a third-party check was undertaken or not.

Question Four

As at 14 February 2023, the total number of full time equivalent (FTE) immigration officers across the network was 832.7 FTE. Of these, 10 immigration officers are assigned to process Straight to Residence applications.

Question Six

In line with the refusal of question two, this part of your request is also refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. We are not able to provide the number of Straight to Residence applications that underwent a third-party check.

However, as at 27 February 2023, I can advise that 50 per cent of Straight to Residence applications were processed within 31 weekdays and 90 per cent were processed within 70 weekdays.

I hope you find this information useful. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Carley', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Michael Carley
General Manager (Acting) – Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment