



26 April 2023

Sanjay Batra
fyi-request-22189-6b81d754@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2223-2124

Tēnā koe Sanjay,

Thank you for your email of 21 March 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *How many applications pending in different category, like Preparing, Gathering and Under assessment?*
2. *How many applications are under assessment in Scarce Category?*
3. *Does immigration take longer time to process Scarce Category application rather than other category?*
4. *Do we expect that all applications will be clear till end June 2023?*

On 23 March 2023, we asked you to confirm if the questions in your request refer to the 2021 Resident Visa category which you confirmed as correct on 27 March 2023.

Our Response

Question 1

The below table provides the total number of all residence visa applications being processed under the 2021 Resident Visa category (RV2021) under Gathering information, Preparing application, and Under assessment stage, as at 18 April 2023.

Status of 2021 Resident Visa	Total
Gathering information	2,714
Preparing application	1
Under assessment	8,767

Question 2

The RV2021 criteria that an application has been lodged or assessed under may be recorded against the application at any time during the application process. As such, we cannot provide an accurate response to your question. However, we can advise that as at 18 April 2023 of the 11,693 applications in process, a total of 191 were recorded under the 'Scarce criteria'.

Question 3

The below table provides the average processing times for RV2021 applications under the Scarce, Settled, and Skilled criteria, as at 18 April 2023.

Criteria of 2021 Resident Visa	50% of applications completed within (weekdays)	90% of applications completed within (weekdays)
Scarce	112	237
Settled	101	240
Skilled	101	246

Question 4

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is expecting to complete the majority of the remaining RV2021 applications by the end of June 2023. It is expected that there will be a number of applications that cannot be completed by then for a variety of reasons such as character issues where applicants are awaiting court dates.

The most up to date details on the processing of RV2021 can be found at the below link:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/waiting-for-a-visa/how-long-it-takes-to-process-your-visa-application/2021-resident-visa-processing-times>

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Richard Owen

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