



26 April 2023

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DOIA 2223-2169

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

"1. Please provide statistics regarding how many Immigration NZ staff applied for COVID-19 Response Recognition Awards and how many were declined and on what criteria.

2. Please also provide any internal correspondence on how the criteria for this award was decided compared to what was published publicly here and below:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/isolation-and-quarantine/managed-isolation-and-quarantine/covid-19-award/>

"The INZ criteria:

To be eligible for the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award through INZ, you need to have been employed by MBIE for at least 1 month (in total) and active in a role during the qualifying period 26 March 2020 to 27 February 2022 and either:

Working at the Auckland or Christchurch airports border during qualifying period, AND/OR In role(s) that required working in an INZ office during level 3 or 4 lockdowns Contractors, part-time and full-time staff who meet above criteria are equally eligible for the award."

Our Response

Question One:

There were 468 registrations for the COVID-19 Response Recognition Awards by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) staff. Of those, 25 were declined by INZ. The reasons for declining were either because the applicant worked from home during the relevant period or they worked on the Afghan Evacuation, which were activities deemed non-qualifying.

Question Two:

Please refer to *appendix one, two, and three* for the documents identified within scope of your request. Some information has been marked out of scope or withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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

Nāku iti nei, nā



Catriona Robinson
Associate Deputy Secretary
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment