



24 May 2023

John Luke

fyi-request-22446-36822178@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2223-2343

Dear Mr Luke

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received on 14 April 2023 requesting the following information from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry):

I noted,

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.immigration.govt.nz%2Fassist-migrants-and-students%2Fassist-students%2Finternational-markets%2FIndia%2Fopportunities-risks%2Ffinancial-fraud&data=05%7C01%7CMinisterialServices%40mbie.govt.nz%7C7cab99f1f595494ca97108db3c430cd9%7C78b2bd11e42b47eab0112e04c3af5ec1%7C0%7C0%7C638170030920290544%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=swHOF3GTN6wnxfPBTWYUWf5IB4juPWorCs7lyP6QngE%3D&reserved=0>

Due to fraud and misrepresentation, bona fide interviews will remain a necessity in order to better gauge an applicant's genuine intent to study in New Zealand.

May I kindly request the data from past 5 years, how many interview (in relation to study/student visa) you have conduct in NZ and offshore. If offshore, please specify country or region.

Our Response

The Appendix attached provides you with a table that shows the number of interviews for student visa applications conducted by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022. It is important to note that an individual may be interviewed multiple times per application, however only the first interview is recorded.

The information is categorised by calendar year and by the application submission location, either in New Zealand or offshore. If the application was submitted offshore, this has been broken down by the applicant's nationality as stated on their passport.

INZ cannot provide you with the location of the INZ office where each interview took place. To provide this information Ministry staff would need to manually review each of these individual case files, therefore this part of your request is being refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. Where information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, we have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested, however it is our opinion that it would not.

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

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.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Sionzon
Acting National Manager Allocation and Support
Verification and Compliance
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Appendix

The number of interviews for student visa applications conducted by Immigration New Zealand from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022*.

Submission Location	Passport Nationality	Calendar Year Student Interview					Total Student Interviews
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Offshore	Afghanistan	2	.	.	.	.	2
	Bahrain	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Bangladesh	44	57	12	.	.	113
	Barbados	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Bhutan	2	8	.	.	.	10
	Brazil	.	4	.	1	.	5
	Cambodia	2	3	.	.	2	7
	Canada	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Chile	1	2	.	.	.	3
	China	81	56	8	22	21	188
	Colombia	10	4	.	.	.	14
	Ecuador	.	1	1	.	.	2
	Egypt	4	4	.	.	.	8
	Ethiopia	2	1	1	.	.	4
	Fiji	16	11	.	.	.	27
	Germany	.	.	2	.	.	2
	Ghana	5	8	1	.	1	15
	Great Britain	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Hong Kong	2	1	.	.	.	3
	India	3,906	8,396	1,832	12	243	14,389
	Indonesia	4	3	.	.	.	7
	Iran	9	18	.	.	.	27
	Israel	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Ivory Coast	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Japan	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Jordan	6	2	.	.	.	8
	Kazakhstan	.	.	1	.	.	1
	Kenya	4	5	1	.	.	10
	Kuwait	.	1	.	.	.	1
	Libya	2	1	.	.	.	3
	Malawi	1	.	.	.	.	1
	Malaysia	.	2	1	.	1	4
Maldives	1	.	.	.	.	1	
Mali	1	.	.	.	.	1	
Mauritius	7	9	.	.	.	16	
Morocco	1	1	.	.	.	2	
Myanmar	.	1	.	.	1	2	
Nepal	507	934	255	.	8	1,704	

Nigeria	16	20	1	.	.	37
Pakistan	5	6	1	.	2	14
Palestine	.	1	.	.	.	1
Philippines	67	46	10	.	13	136
Qatar	.	1	.	.	.	1
Russia	3	1	2	.	.	6
Rwanda	2	.	.	.	.	2
Samoa	1	3	1	.	.	5
Saudi Arabia	3	3	1	.	.	7
Solomon Islands	.	.	1	.	.	1
South Africa	4	11	1	.	.	16
South Korea	3	5	2	.	.	10
Spain	.	1	.	.	.	1
Sri Lanka	230	481	133	.	3	847
Sudan	1	.	.	.	.	1
Switzerland	1	.	.	.	.	1
Taiwan	1	3	.	.	1	5
Tanzania	1	3	.	.	.	4
Thailand	34	12	1	.	1	48
Tonga	1	12	.	.	.	13
Tunisia	.	1	.	.	.	1
Turkey	1	3	.	.	.	4
Tuvalu	.	.	.	.	1	1
Uganda	5	2	.	.	.	7
United Arab Emirates	1	.	.	.	.	1
United States of America	1	1	1	.	.	3
Uzbekistan	1	.	.	.	.	1
Vietnam	67	239	55	.	3	364
Yemen	.	.	.	.	1	1
Zambia	3	.	.	.	.	3
Zimbabwe	5	9	.	.	1	15
Total Offshore	5,081	10,400	2,325	35	303	18,144
Total Onshore New Zealand	884	1,277	923	650	189	3,923
Total	5,965	11,677	3,248	685	492	22,067

* This data relies on manual submission in accordance with standard operating procedures, therefore it may contain errors or omissions.