



26 July 2023

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DOIA 2223-2923

Tēnā koe Ziyun

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. After the border reopens, total number of student visa applications INZ has received, approved and declined until 31 May 2023, compared with same period pre covid19? Can we please break down these stats into sectors – total/ University / School / PTE / Te Pukenga / Other?*
- 2. After the border reopens, total number of Indian student visa applications INZ has received, approved and declined until 31 May 2023, compared with same period pre covid19? Can we please break down these stats into sectors – total/ University / School / PTE / Te Pukenga / Other?*
- 3. Reasons for visa declines in India market for each aforementioned sectors.*

On 19 June 2023, we asked you to clarify which pre-covid period you required, to which you responded 2019/2020.

Our Response

Questions 1, 2

Please refer to the table provided in the Appendix for the number of student visa applications Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has received, approved and declined. Please note that the figures provided do not include student visas for dependent children or granted under section 61.

We are refusing the breakdown of the 'institutions not recorded' under section 18(f) of the Act as providing the information would require substantial collation and research. To provide this information would require Immigration New Zealand to manually review each application to determine their institute.

Question 3

Regarding the reasons Indian nationals have been declined, MBIE is refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act as providing the information would require substantial collation and research. A visa application will be declined if an immigration officer is not satisfied that an applicant has met all the requirements of the immigration instructions applicable to the visa category they apply under. MBIE does not hold a breakdown of the reasons individual applications failed to meet instructions in a reportable format. Due to this, each declined application would need to be manually checked to determine the reason it was declined.

Reviewing each individual application would remove MBIE staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest would not be served.

Throughout this response, 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 considered whether consulting with you would remove the reason for refusal, however, in my view it would not as to obtain the specific information as to why an application was declined would inevitably involve the manual search of applications.

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 noa, nā

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

Michael Carley
(Acting) Principal Advisor, Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Appendix

Number of Student Visa applications received, approved and declined for the periods 1 August and 31 May 2020, 1 August 2022 and 31 May 2023, broken down by nationality, institution and year, as at 10 July 2023.

Please note 'Other Nationals' are all other nationalities excluding India.

Decision type	Nationality	Institution not recorded		Polytechnics		Private Training Establishments		Schools		Universities	
		2019/20	2022/23	2019/20	2022/23	2019/20	2022/23	2019/20	2022/23	2019/20	2022/23
Approved	Indian Nationals	93	1	3,104	1,960	3,300	1,146	70	58	2,049	1,912
	Other National	200	95	4,064	2,722	9,399	6,571	10,501	7,202	16,495	21,255
Declined	Indian Nationals	30	11	1,160	932	871	1,006	17	20	130	240
	Other National	85	31	526	732	1,143	1,298	168	136	387	826
Total submissions (received)	Indian Nationals	157	26	5,495	3,978	5,095	3,335	105	107	2,351	2,470
	All Nationals	447	168	8,970	6,578	14,938	10,346	10,819	7,461	19,228	24,610