



23 August 2023

Ranjit

fyirequest2023596dbac720232@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2324 - 0159

Tēnā koe Ranjit

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 July 2023, to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

“Re the partnership residence category.

- 1. What date applications are currently (Date you reply this request) being allocated to an Immigration Officer in the Hamilton branch?*
- 2. How many applications (daily numbers if possible or weekly will be fine) were received between 1 May 2023 and 30 June 2023.*
- 3. Do partnership residence visa applications get processed in your Hamilton branch only or are other branches also allocated some applications?*
- 4. Is there any specific day in a week to allocate the partnership residence applications to an Immigration Officer or can the allocation be done on random days?*
- 5. If a partnership residence visa applicant is currently working in a green list role (fulfilling all requirements of the role), is there any policy or immigration instruction to fast track such applications? This is considering New Zealand is currently facing a massive shortage of roles listed in green list.*
- 6. How many applications under the partnership residence category are currently sitting with Immigration New Zealand which have crossed the 14month processing time.*
- 7. What is the total number of applications Immigration New Zealand received in the calendar year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 and how many applications have been decided in the above calendar year timeframe”*

Our response

Question One – As at 22 August 2023, online partnership residence applications from 14 May 2023 and paper partnership residence applications from 17 April 2023 were being allocated to immigration officers in INZ’s Hamilton office.

Question Two – The information you have requested is provided in the Appendix.

Question Three – The majority of partnership residence applications are processed in INZ’s Hamilton office, with a small number processed in Porirua and the Pacific.

Question Four – Partnership residence applications tend to be allocated early in the week. Additional applications may be allocated on any day throughout the week.

Question Five - There is currently no immigration instruction to fast-track partnership resident visa applications where the applicant is working in a green list role. Partnership resident visa applications are generally processed in the submitted date order. Applicants can make a request for prioritisation if they feel there are exceptional circumstances warranting the early allocation of their application.

Question Six – As at 22 August 2023, there were **222** partnership residence visa applications in progress that were submitted more than 14 months ago.

Question Seven – Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, Immigration New Zealand received a total of **7,647** partnership residence visa applications. Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, **7,892** partnership residence visa applications were decided.

I trust you find this information useful. 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](tel:0800802602).

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

Nāku iti nei, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jock Gilray', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jock Gilray
Director Visa
Chief Operating Officer Branch
Immigration New Zealand

Appendix

The number of partnership resident visa applications submitted per day between 1 May 2023 and 30 June 2023. The data provided is as at 7 August 2023

Date	Number of applications submitted
1 May 2023	19
2 May 2023	22
3 May 2023	34
4 May 2023	21
5 May 2023	21
6 May 2023	16
7 May 2023	12
8 May 2023	33
9 May 2023	27
10 May 2023	28
11 May 2023	18
12 May 2023	23
13 May 2023	10
14 May 2023	13
15 May 2023	30
16 May 2023	25
17 May 2023	25
18 May 2023	21
19 May 2023	24
20 May 2023	20
21 May 2023	17
22 May 2023	19
23 May 2023	32
24 May 2023	23
25 May 2023	15
26 May 2023	23
27 May 2023	11
28 May 2023	11
29 May 2023	32
30 May 2023	24
31 May 2023	34
1 June 2023	28
2 Jun 2023	20
3 June 2023	13
4 June 2023	10
5 Jun 2023	15

6 June 2023	21
7 June 2023	32
8 June 2023	29
9 June 2023	23
10 June 2023	11
11 June 2023	16
12 June 2023	29
13 June 2023	26
14 June 2023	23
15 June 2023	31
16 June 2023	26
17 June 2023	9
18 June 2023	17
19 June 2023	23
20 June 2023	36
21 June 2023	33
22 June 2023	38
23 June 2023	26
24 June 2023	12
25 June 2023	12
26 June 2023	30
27 June 2023	23
28 June 2023	35
29 June 2023	35
30 June 2023	28
Total	1,393