



01 December 2023

Alexandria Lee

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DOIA 2324-0994

Tēnā koe Alexandria,

Thank you for your email of 2 November 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

- 1. Please advise what the current wait time is for an application to be allocated to an Immigration Officer i.e. what is the date of the oldest application still unallocated in the Parent Sponsorship Visa category? To clarify, this is after the application has been submitted and once MBIE sends acknowledgement of receipt of the application.*
- 2. Can MBIE please update the INZ website to reflect the expected processing times for this category as it is not specifically covered.*
- 3. Since the category reopened in 2022, how many visas have been issued for this category?*
- 4. For visa applicants not requiring an NSC check, what is the average processing time for a visa application once it has been allocated to an IO?*

Our Response

Question 1

Expressions of interest (EOI) are selected from either a queue or ballot pool depending on when the EOI was received.

- The queue contains EOIs received before 12 October 2022. The first selection was 14 November 2022.
- The ballot contains EOIs received from 12 October 2022. The first selection was 8 August 2023.

We select EOIs every three months. There are 2,000 resident visas each year to be granted to people applying based on 'queue' EOIs and 500 visas for those applying based on 'ballot' EOIs. This means there are different allocation rates for these groups.

As at 29 November 2023, the longest time taken for a Parent Resident Visa application to be allocated to an immigration officer was 82 days from the queue and 69 days from the ballot. Please note that under current settings, this timeframe is likely to increase as more applications are received.

The oldest unallocated Parent Resident Visa application from the Queue was received on 8 September 2023, and the oldest Parent Resident Visa application from the ballot system was received on 21 September 2023.

You can find more information in the link below:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/parent-resident-visa-restarts>



Question 2

Processing times for the Parent Resident category will soon be uploaded to the INZ website. You can find processing information at the below link:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/common-topics/parent-resident-visa>

Question 3

Between 12 October 2022 and 22 November 2023, a total of 532 Parent Resident Visas have been granted to principal and secondary applicants.

Question 4

As at 22 November 2023, the average processing time for a visa application not requiring an NSC check is 79 weekdays.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jock Gilray', written in a cursive style.

Jock Gilray
Director Visa
Chief Operating Officer Branch
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment