



21 March 2024

William

fyi-request-25841-84cfd378@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2324-1814

Tēnā koe William

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

- 1. According to www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/preparing-a-visa-application/support-family/parent-resident-visa-eoi-selection I assume that all the EOIs received before 12 October 2022 were selected on November 2023, which means all the EOIs remaining in the queued pool can equally share the 2500 annual quote. Please correct me if I am wrong.*
- 2. In the above case, could you please disclose the total number of active EOIs remaining in the pool (please exclude the declined/refused ones)? Please also provide the number of applicants in all ballot EOIs as one EOI may have 2 persons too.*
- 3. The National promised to introduce a Parent Visa Boost - a multiple entry visa valid for five years with an extension possible for a further five years. I am wondering if there is any update on this proposal.*

Our Response

The requested information relating to Parent Resident Visa expression of interest (EOI) can be found on the Immigration New Zealand website: [Parent Resident Visa overview and application numbers | Immigration New Zealand](#).

MBIE is actively working on determining a work programme that will deliver on the immigration priorities of the Government. The Government's key priority for family settings for this term remains introducing a renewable, five-year visa for parents and grandparents of New Zealand citizens and residents.

Designing and implementing new visa products requires significant time and resourcing, so this may take some time to develop. Once decisions have been taken on the details of the visa, announcements will be made publicly. The five-year parent and grandparent visa is not intended to provide a pathway to residence for family members.

In the meantime, parents are able to join their children in New Zealand either as a visitor or permanently through existing channels, such as:

- Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/parent-and-grandparent-multiple-entry-visitor-visa>.
- Parent Category Resident Visa: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/visas/visa/parent-resident-visa>.

MBIE holds three documents in scope of your request which are listed in the following document table:

No	Document Type	Date	Title	Decision
1	Briefing	27 November 2023	Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Immigration	Refused under section 18(d)
2	Briefing	4 December 2023	2324-1070 Advancing your immigration priorities	Information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
3	Briefing	18 January 2024	2324-1508 Immigration Work programme Priorities	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)

The Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Immigration has been proactively released on the MBIE website: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28012-briefing-for-the-incoming-minister-of-immigration-proactiverelase-pdf>

Most of the information in briefing 2324-1070 and 2324-1508 relating to family settings is still under consideration and the remainder of the information within the documents is out of scope. Therefore, this information is being withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

However, please find the following extract from briefing 2324-1070 *Advancing your immigration priorities* comprising advice to the Minister of Immigration providing context for future discussion of the five-year parent visa.

Extract from 2324-1070 *Advancing your immigration priorities*:

“Providing facilitative pathways for parent visitors while minimising taxpayer costs

The key design considerations for a renewable 5-year parent visa will be the health requirements, including the availability of comprehensive health insurance or ability to recover costs through other mechanisms such as a health levy; and the checks and obligations on sponsoring children to maintain parent wellbeing, and the parents to retain connections to their home country. The renewable status could also blur the lines with residence and right to remain expectations. This work can draw on experiences with existing longer duration visas in Australia and Canada.”

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 that reads "Polly Vowles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Polly Vowles
Policy Manager
Immigration (Skills and Residence) Policy
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment