



12 5 JUL 2024

Adam Szokol  
fyi-request-27441-aa1089b3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Adam

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 July 2024 about obtaining New Zealand citizenship for you and your family.

The grant of citizenship is intended for people who wish to make a commitment to New Zealand. When the Citizenship Act 1977 (Act) was amended in 2005, Parliament considered that all applicants for a grant of citizenship should reside in New Zealand for long enough after receiving permanent residency (or a visa of similar effect) to demonstrate their commitment to the country and suitability for a grant of citizenship. You can find information on visas for New Zealand on the Immigration New Zealand website – [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

You have asked for clarification on the requirement known as “presence in New Zealand”, stipulated in section 8(2) of the Act. The standard presence requirement is that an applicant must have been present in New Zealand as a resident for at least 1,350 days in the five years immediately preceding their citizenship application. This must include at least 240 days in New Zealand in each of the five years.

However, the Act also provides that in exceptional circumstances particular to the applicant, I can accept a shorter presence period, but not less than 450 days during the 20 months immediately before applying.

Under section 9(1)(c) of the Act I can grant citizenship to a person who does not meet any standard requirement(s) if I am satisfied that it is in the public interest because of exceptional circumstances of a humanitarian or other nature relating to the applicant. In general, however, the exceptional circumstances test is hard to meet and is only met in comparatively rare and abnormal cases.

I cannot, however, make a decision on whether your circumstances would meet the exceptional circumstances test without a completed application before me. This is because I need to consider all the relevant information, and the advice of my officials when exercising my discretion in these cases.

Should you have any further questions, I encourage you to contact the citizenship office directly at [citizenship@dia.govt.nz](mailto:citizenship@dia.govt.nz) or on +64 4 462 0651 (outside NZ).

I trust this information has been of assistance.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'B' and 'V' in a cursive, stylized font.

Hon Brooke van Velden  
**Minister of Internal Affairs**