

23 FEB 2017

John McIntyre

[fyi-request-5268-](mailto:fyi-request-5268-5485eb3d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

5485eb3d@requests.fyi.org.nz

147 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011

Phone +64 4 495 7200

Fax +64 4 382 3589

Email OIA@dia.govt.nz

Website www.dia.govt.nz

Dear John

Official Information Act 1982 request 1617-0188

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (Act) request, which was received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 25 January 2017.

You requested:

- 1) How many grants of citizenship have been made since 2013 (by year), under section 9(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act.*
- 2) How many were deemed "in the public interest because of exceptional circumstances of a humanitarian [...] nature", or, -Whether they were done under any "other nature relating to the applicant",*
- 3) Details as to what the exceptional circumstances and public interest were that warranted the citizenship grant.*

In respect of the first part of your request:

We previously contacted you to let you know that the Department had chosen to proactively release the information you have requested. Accordingly, we are now declining this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as this information is now publicly available.

The information can be viewed here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Citizenship-of-Mr-Peter-Thiel>

In respect of the second and third parts of your request:

Our systems do not record any differentiation between different types of exceptional circumstance under section 9(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act 1977. Extensive manual collation and substantial research would be needed to create the information you have requested.

We are therefore refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the statistical information requested is not held by the Department; and under section 18(f), as substantial collation and research would be necessary to make this information available.

In order to be able to answer the third part of your request, the Department also considered the potential public interest in releasing copies of case material from the other applicants under this citizenship category. However, we are not satisfied that the public interest is enough in this case to outweigh the likely impact of the loss of privacy on the many individuals who would be personally affected by such a release.

For this reason we are also refusing the third part of your request under section 18(a) of the act, as by virtue of section 9(2)(a) there is good reason to withhold the information in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased natural persons.

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 would like to discuss your request further, please email OIA@dia.govt.nz with your contact details, and we can arrange a time for us to call you.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden
Manager Business Improvement and Support
Births Deaths Marriages Citizenship and Translations