

27 JUL 2017

Ryan S
Fyi-request-6106-a4f7afc8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ryan

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 2 July 2017, requesting information on the Immigration Protection Tribunal (IPT). You have requested:

1. "How many IPT decisions that have been made but are yet to be published on the website;
2. How many staff currently work on the publication of these decisions (total number of staff).
3. Average or Approximate Publication Time for Decisions (Expected vs Actual if that is available);
4. Any official information regarding this issue and what is being done to address this."

I have responded to your requests below.

The Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) does not keep record of the number of decisions awaiting publication or the average or approximate publication time for decisions. Accordingly, the Ministry is refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as we do not hold the information requested and we have no grounds to believe that it is held by another department, Ministry of the Crown, organisation or local authority.

I can however advise that the IPT releases an average of 100 decisions per month. Not all decisions of the IPT are published as some are 'publication prohibited' and others have restrictions on publication which may mean publication is delayed. Before a decision is published, a research copy must be produced, any necessary depersonalisation of the decision completed and an abstract (summary) of the decision written.

The Ministry is responsible for providing administration services, staffing, and other resources necessary to enable the IPT to carry out its functions. Although there is no legislated timeframe for decisions to be published, the Ministry aims to make IPT decisions publically available in a timely manner.

The tasks associated with the publication of decisions (research copy, depersonalisation, abstract) are currently undertaken by up to five people. The role dedicated to publishing decisions to the website is currently vacant and is being recruited to. In the interim one staff member is publishing the decisions to the website on a part-time basis. This has resulted in delays to the publication of decisions.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. The Ombudsman may be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

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