



20 October 2017

Ryan S
(by email: fyi-request-6584-8ad84b3f@requests.fyi.org.nz)

File No: DOIA 1718-0406

Dear Ryan S,

I refer to your request received on 22 September 2017 requesting the following information from Immigration New Zealand ("INZ"):

- 1) Does Immigration New Zealand keep track of how many people in New Zealand do not have the right to be here? (My understanding is that the term is "unlawful")
2) How many people are currently known to Immigration New Zealand as "Unlawful"?
3) Could you please break the total number of unlawfully down into Male/Female/Other
4) Could you please break down the total number of unlawfully into a table showing citizenship/country of birth?
5) Could you please break down the total number of unlawfully into their age bracket? (Age brackets being 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39 etc) (If these age brackets are not possible, could you please break them into brackets that can be done by whatever your system is)
6) I understand that the team that deals with unlawfully is called compliance and that they have a tier priority list for choosing who to treat with priority, could you please detail what that priority list is? (I understand it is tier 1 - 10)

Our response

- 1) Does Immigration New Zealand keep track of how many people in New Zealand do not have the right to be here? (My understanding is that the term is "unlawful")

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does keep track of overstayers (the official term). The following tables and notes relate to people regarded as overstayers; simplifying a little, people whose visa has expired, who have not taken up New Zealand citizenship, have no other visa, and have exhausted basic rights to apply for a visa extension or a different visa from onshore.

The numbers are estimates, based on annual samples of data. This is because potential errors in the data – due, for example, to multiple legitimate identities, missing or unrecorded travel records, unmatched death records – make it impractical to keep the number up to date more regularly.

- 2) How many people are currently known to Immigration New Zealand as "Unlawful"?

The estimated number of overstayers in New Zealand, as at December 2016 (the most recent estimate), is 10,894. The estimate has a sampling error of +/- 461 (+/- 4.2%). The actual range of the estimate is therefore 10,433 through 11,355.

The estimated rate of over-staying is about 4 in 10,000 (0.04%) overall.

3) *Could you please break the total number of unlawfully down into Male/Female/Other*

The following table shows the estimated numbers of overstayers by age and gender.

Age (years)	Female	Male	Not recorded	Total
0-4	10	60	0	70
5-17	336	375	0	711
18-24	337	682	0	1,019
25-34	928	1,783	0	2,711
35-44	613	1,626	72	2,312
45-64	933	1,989	498	3,420
65-84	330	209	108	647
85+	0	4	0	4
Total	3,488	6,728	678	10,894

4) *Could you please break down the total number of unlawfully into a table showing citizenship/country of birth?*

The following table shows the estimated number of overstayers by nationality. Overstayers for other countries are grouped in the 'Rest of world' category.

Issuing country	Estimate
Tonga	2,432
Samoa	1,853
China	1,299
India	912
Great Britain	471
Fiji	444
Malaysia	441
Tuvalu	366
South Korea	285
Thailand	205
Philippines	111
Indonesia	105
Kiribati	91
Brazil	63
Rest of world	1,816
Total	10,894

5) *Could you please break down the total number of unlawfully into their age bracket? (Age brackets being 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39 etc) (If these age brackets are not possible, could you please break them into a brackets that can be done by whatever your system is)*

Please refer to the table above in question 3.

6) *I understand that the team that deals with unlawfulness is called compliance and that they have a tier priority list for choosing who to treat with priority, could you please detail what that priority list is? (I understand it's tier 1 - 10)*

This information is withheld in reliance on section 6(c) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences under the Immigration Act 2009, and the right to a fair trial.

You have the right to contest my decision to withhold information by seeking an investigation and review of that decision by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Martin Prowse, Business Advisor, Business Support, Immigration New Zealand at martin.prowse@mbie.govt.nz or 04 896 5525.

Yours sincerely



Peter Devoy
Acting General Manager – Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment