

1 August 2018

Dr GS

[fyi-request-8338-59978222@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-8338-59978222@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: 1819-0073

Dear Dr GS,

I refer to your official information request, which was received by the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (the Ministry) on 16 July 2018. You requested, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

*I have 5 separate questions in relation to the "Parent Category" for residence visas:*

*1 - At the end of the year 2017/2018 (ie. end of June 2018), how many applications were still pending under the residence visa category for parents?*

*2 - How many EOIs are currently in the pool for parent category residence visa?*

*3 - Out of the 2000 applications that the govt accepts every year, how many are still available as of July 2018 for the coming year?*

*4 - Given that the residence visa is closed to new applications for more than 2 years, what alternatives does the government have in place for hard working citizens, contributing to the society to the max, to live with their parents in the long term. Parent visitor visa is a joke as they can only stay 1.5 years out of 3 years. What do they do for the remaining 1.5 years?!*

*5 - When can we expect an update from the government regarding the parent category for residence visas?*

#### **Our response**

##### *Question 1*

At the end of the year 2017/2018, there were 347 applications pending under the Parent Category.

##### *Question 2*

As at 27 July, there are 5,482 EOIs in the pool for the Parent Category.

##### *Question 3*

The Government has not yet set the number of places that are available in 2018/19 financial year.

##### *Question 4*

As you mentioned, the Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa is one option for the parents of New Zealand citizens. This visa is appropriate for parents who wish to visit their New Zealand citizen children for up to six months at a time.

Another option is residence under the Parent Retirement Category. This category is uncapped, and requires investment in New Zealand. For more information about the Parent Retirement Category,

please see our website at <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/parent-retirement-resident-visa>.

*Question 5*

A decision about restarting selections has not yet been made. When a decision is made, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will email information to people who have submitted an expression of interest, and publish it on the INZ website.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Fraser Stretton at [fraser.stretton@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:fraser.stretton@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Bishop', with a long, flowing underline.

Karen Bishop  
Assistant General Manager – Visa Services  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment