



13 February 2019

Mr John Luke
fyi-request-9368-086ae4ac@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1819-1022

Dear Mr Luke,

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received on 10 January 2019 requesting the following information:

I would like to know how Immigration New Zealand investigate anonymous tips (e.g. people breaching visa conditions, provided false and misleading information to INZ etc) received. Can you please attach any guideline or training materials provided to INZ's investigation team. What is your procedure after you have received the tips and how long it usually takes for you to make conclusions.

Also, can you please provided the number of anonymous tips you have received and the number of investigation result from the tips you have received between 2015 to now.

Our Response

The procedure for how all anonymous tips (complaints/allegations) received by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) involves an initial assessment to determine the extent of interaction required. The complaint is then evaluated in accordance with the investigation criteria and priorities.

The training material provided to the INZ investigation team is legally privileged. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the Act to maintain legal professional privilege, and section 6(c) of the Act as the releasing of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

INZ does not record the length of time it takes to investigate an anonymous tip and conclude the investigation. Some complaints are relatively easy to process whilst others are more complex and may involve checks that take some months to complete. This information is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

The table below shows the number of anonymous tips (complaints/allegations) INZ has received from 01 January 2015 to 10 January 2019.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
724	853	1,406	1,790	54

INZ is not able to determine the number of investigations that resulted from the anonymous tips. This information is not recorded in a reportable format; therefore this part of your request is being

refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The information is held on a large number of individual files and to provide this information Ministry staff would need to manually review each file. In accordance with section 18(1) of the Act I have considered whether fixing a charge under section 15 or extending the time limit under section 15A would enable your request to be granted, but it is in my view that neither would do so.

You have the right to contest the 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
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Robyn Webster, Business Advisor, Immigration New Zealand at robyn.webster@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,



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