



13 February 2020

Vidarbh Sakshee

fyi-request-11968-ed6adca7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Vidarbh Sakshee

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2020 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I would like to request under the Official Information Act some statistics relating to asylum seekers. I would like to request:

** the number of asylum seekers that New Zealand has received each year since 2014 to 2019.*

I would like these statistics to be broken down by:

- a) the country of nationality or habitual residence of the asylum seeker,*
- b) the number of asylum seekers (by country) who were recognized as refugees by a refugee and protection officer*
- c) the number of asylum seekers (by country) who were recognized as protected persons by a refugee and protection officer*
- d) the number of asylum seekers (by country) who were recognized as refugees or protected persons following an appeal against a decision of a refugee and protection officer*

I also have two further requests that may not be so easy to answer, but I would deeply appreciate it if you could answer them:

- e) it would be excellent if I could get a breakdown of successful refugee or protection claimants by reason for the decision: eg race, religion, nationality, political opinion, member of particular social group, a protected person under the ICCPR or a protected person under the CAT.*
- f) it would also be great if I could get any statistics on the reason why applications for refugee status were rejected: eg lack of applicant credibility, domestic protection alternative available, no well founded fear of persecution, or persecution not for a Convention reason.*

In response to items (a)-(c) above, please find attached two sets of data. The first set shows all refugee and protection claims received from 2014 to 2019, broken down by calendar year and nationality. The second set gives numbers of refugee and protection officer approval decisions, by nationality and calendar year; and the number of protected person approvals by calendar year, as a subset of all approval decisions.

To protect the identity of claimants, nationality numbers below five are not disclosed, and this information is subsumed into the category "Other".

Due to the length of processing time, decisions issued in a calendar year do not relate to the claims received that year. For example in 2014, 23 claims were received, and 9 approval decisions were issued for Chinese nationals. However, this does not mean that 9 of the 23 claims were approved. Claim and decision numbers refer to different groups of people, unless claims were lodged and decided in the same calendar year.

The approval rate for the Refugee Status Unit (refugee and protection officers) over the last 10 financial years is available from the INZ website:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/statistics/statistics-refugee-and-protection.pdf>

I note that item (d), approvals on appeal, was transferred to the Ministry of Justice for a response as it relates to appeals to the Immigration and Protection Tribunal.

The Ministry does not collect data on the Convention ground (race, religion, nationality, political opinion, member of particular social group), or the reasons for the decline, that can be provided in a statistical manner. We would need to check records of each decision to provide this and, as such, items (e) and (f) of your request are refused under s18(f) of the Act as it would involve substantial collation.

You have the right to seek an investigation to review my decision to refuse your request by the Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Fiona Whiteridge
General Manager - Refugee and Migrant Services
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Refugee and Protection Claims by Nationality - Calendar Year						
Nationality	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Afghanistan	9	9	6	27	7	32
Bangladesh	5	17	14	27	12	21
Brazil	5		6			7
Chile						7
China	23	23	64	76	103	91
Colombia		14	8	6	9	14
Czech Republic	5				7	5
Egypt				5		9
Ethiopia				7		8
Fiji	29	28	12	8		12
Hungary			9	9		
India	18	21	31	43	49	66
Indonesia			5			
Iran	11	19	15	19	20	32
Iraq	11	12	24	17		
Jordan			5	10		
Kiribati	5					
Libya		14	6			
Malaysia		7	11	10	18	36
Mexico						5
Mongolia						13
Myanmar					10	
Nigeria					9	5
Pakistan	24	24	14	18	28	12
Philippines				10	6	11
Russia			5	22	7	11
Samoa		6				
Saudi Arabia	5		24	10	31	8
Slovakia	5					
South Africa		22	13		6	14
Sri Lanka	29	23	13	30	42	50
Syria	12	13	9	6		6
Tonga		6				
Turkey	9	7	20	34	8	13
Tuvalu			6			
Uganda		6				
Ukraine	7					
USA				5		
Uruguay					5	
Vietnam		6				5
Yemen					6	
Zimbabwe	5	5	8		6	6
Other	71	69	59	50	66	57
Totals	288	351	387	449	455	556
*Nationality statistics less than five are included as "Other".						

Refugee and Protection Approval Decisions by Nationality - Calendar Year												
Nationality	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve	Approve
Afghanistan												
Bangladesh												
Brazil												
China	9	19	14	35	49	50						
Colombia		12				5						
Czech Republic						6						
Egypt						8						
Ethiopia												
Fiji		8										
Hungary												
India												
Iran		6	9	8		12						
Iraq	9	7	17	10								
Jordan				6								
Libya		13		6								
Malaysia												
Myanmar						6						
Nepal												
Nigeria												
Pakistan		13	11									
Palestine	5											
Philippines												
Russia					14	9						
Samoa												
Saudi Arabia			5	10	6	11						
Slovakia												
South Africa												
Sri Lanka						6						
Syria	12	16	8	5	6							
Tonga												
Turkey	8		9	7	13							
Tuvalu												
Uganda												
Ukraine												
Uruguay												
Yemen						5						
Zimbabwe			5									
Other*	35	34	37	25	36	32						
Totals	78	133	110	112	139	151						

Nationality statistics have not been provided individually as they are all below five.
Protection status approvals are a subset of the refugee and protection approval decisions by nationality.

*Nationality statistics less than five are included as "Other".