



27 July 2020

J Smith

fyi-request-13198-8db2409a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-0010

Dear J Smith,

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2020 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

"In the past 15 years, how many citizens of the People's Republic of China who were previously members of the following organisations, at or above a rank equivalent to NATO code OF-4 have been awarded temporary or permanent residency or citizenship in New Zealand:

*People's Liberation Army, including
People's Liberation Army Ground Force
People's Liberation Army Air Force
People's Liberation Army Navy
People's Liberation Army Rocket Force
People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force any and all associated People's
Liberation Army training facilities
and colleges
People's Armed Police Force
Chinese People's Armed Police Coast Guard Corps
People's Police of the People's Republic of China
Ministry of Public Safety
Ministry of State Security
Hong Kong Police Force
Macau Security Force
any and all relevant, training and educational facilities associated with these
organisations.*

We wrote to you on 8 July inviting you to clarify, re-scope or narrow your request. We advised that as the request stands, it is likely that the Ministry may refuse your request because while we are able to provide the number of nationals from People's Republic of China who have been granted temporary or permanent residence visas in New Zealand during a certain period, we would not be able to easily obtain information on whether they were previously members of the organisations you have listed and their ranks.

You responded by refining your request to the past five years (2015 – 2020).

Our Response

Your request is being refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation.



Please see table below showing the number of Permanent Residence Visas and Temporary Visas issued to nationals of the People's Republic of China, during calendar years 2015 – 2020 (Jan - Jun):

Visa type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Permanent Residence (General)	4425	4236	5439	7644	8115	2565
Temporary Student	31887	34740	35847	34440	33039	9789
Temporary Work	31887	34740	35847	34440	33039	9789
Temporary Visitor	357174	402879	422934	454803	413055	42228

Information on whether the people included in the above table were previous members of the organisations you have listed in your request, and their ranks, is not held in a reportable format. To obtain this information would require an INZ staff member to manually review the physical application for each individual.

Providing this information would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decision to refuse parts of your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Lautalie Leausa Vaa, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Hogg
General Manager - Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand