9 August 2021

Daniel
fyi-request-16027-
4da6e25c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Daniel

Official Information Act 1982 request 2122-0033 – Citizenship processing timeframes

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 12 July 2021.

You requested –

1. *Can you please tell which month citizenship application are in processing?*

2. *Can you please tell until which month citizenship application applied are completed?*

The Department has since clarified the second part of your request, and we understand that you are seeking the following:

> *I am seeking information about the finished (approved the citizenship) citizenship application (by grant) until which month for the year of 2020 or 2021?*

> *For example - Citizenship department completed / finished (approved the citizenship) the citizenship applications (by grant) till the month of January 2021 and Citizenship case officers are working on citizenship applications (by grant) applied in the month of Feb 2021.*

Question one

As at 1 August 2020, the majority of citizenship by grant applications the Department is currently working on were received in late September to early October 2020. This is clarified in Question two.

Question two

I can advise that most applications from prior to September 2020 have been completed. However, it is important to explain that due to the variables involved in processing applications, there are some earlier applications still in progress. These are typically applications waiting on submission to the Minister or waiting on the customer to provide additional information.

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

Yours sincerely

John Crawford-Smith
Acting Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence
Service Delivery and Operations