

30 August 2021

Mark Sanders

By email: fyi-request-16309-894eaf0f@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202110033

Tēnā koe Mark

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 5 August 2021 for:

“In the year ending June 30, 99 patients on medevac flights had been accepted for treatment in New Zealand, can you please break down those numbers and provide figures for individual citizenship numbers, ie: countries they are from and claim citizenship to.”

Passport information is collected by the Ministry as part of the application for emergency medical evacuation. However, this information is not a relevant factor when determining whether someone qualifies for emergency medical evacuation to New Zealand. As such, citizenship information for each applicant is not recorded in a centralised form.

In the year ending 30 June 2021, the Ministry received emergency medical evacuation applications for 208 individuals. Many of these applications were cancelled or would not have met the requirements necessary to qualify for emergency medical evacuation. To identify the citizenship of the individuals whose applications were successful and who were subsequently evacuated to New Zealand would require that a staff member analyse each application, assess whether it was successful, and then extract and compile relevant citizenship information.

I have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe to compile the information could enable the Ministry to respond. However, as each application would have to be individually reviewed, I do not believe it is in the public interest to do so. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information you have requested cannot be made available without substantial collation.

It is possible that Immigration New Zealand may hold some relevant information. You are welcome to contact them at www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/online-form/.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Scahill', with a small mark at the end.

Chris Scahill
Group Manager, COVID-19 Response
COVID-19 Health System Response