



18 October 2021

Ref: DOIA 2122-0669

M. Lee

fyi-request-16815-18537788@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M. Lee,

Thank you for your email of 20 September 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

The number of refugees that have entered NZ by month since March 2020 and the number of MIQ rooms taken up by refugees.

New Zealand is one of around 37 countries that take part in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regular resettlement programme. The refugees who have entered New Zealand since March 2020 have all come through this programme.

118 refugees arrived in New Zealand in March 2020. None of these refugees entered Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) as they entered the country before the border closed on 20 March 2020.

From 20 March 2020 to 10 February 2021, refugees gained rooms in MIQ through the Emergency Allocation process. The details of these arrivals and the number of rooms allocated to them is laid out below.

Refugee Quota Programme Arrivals 20 March 2020 to 10 February 2021		
Month of Arrival in New Zealand	Number of Individual Refugees	Number of Rooms MIQ Allocated
October 2020	8	5
November 2020	20	9
December 2020	3	3
January 2021	19	6
February 2021	1	1

After 10 February 2021, refugees entering New Zealand were allocated MIQ rooms through the Group Allocation process. Details of the number of refugees and the number of MIQ rooms allocated through this process can be found at: www.miq.govt.nz/travel-to-new-zealand/secure-your-place-in-managed-isolation/group-allocations/ Therefore we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

The people who were recently evacuated from Afghanistan did not enter New Zealand under the Refugee Quota. They were either already New Zealand residents and citizens, Afghan nationals who held New Zealand visas, or Afghan nationals who had worked for New Zealand agencies, so these figures are not included in the information you requested.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Russell Burnard', with a small 'c' at the end of the signature.

Russell Burnard
Acting General Manager MIQ National Operations Services
Managed Isolation and Quarantine