



5 July 2022

Mr Ge

[fyi-request-19636-6a76a4d8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-19636-6a76a4d8@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: DOIA 2122-2308

Dear Mr Ge,

Thank you for your email of 10 June 2022, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information.

*“Could you please provide some background information about refugees resettled in New Zealand regarding why they fled their country of origin in the first place, those either came through refugee quota program or family reunion or any other categories. Specifically,*

- 1) What are the number and percentages of people that resettled in New Zealand (yearly figure traced back to as far as you have the record) fled their country of origin due to religious persecution?*
- 2) What are the number and percentage of people that resettled in New Zealand (yearly figure traced back to as far as you have the record) fled their country of origin due to ethnic persecution?*
- 3) What are the number and percentage of people that resettled in New Zealand (yearly figure traced back to as far as you have the record) fled their country of origin due to political persecution?*
- 4) The number and percentage of people resettled in New Zealand as refugees that were initially assessed against any other reason not mentioned above (yearly figure)?*
- 5) Please also provide the yearly statistics of each category above sorted by gender and age groups“*

## **Our Response**

The information that you have requested in questions 1 - 5 is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. This is because the level of detail in the information you have requested would require a significant number of resources and would unreasonably impact on MBIE's ability to carry out its other operations.

Such administrative reasons for refusal are not subject to a 'public interest test', and there is no need to consider whether public interest considerations outweigh the need to withhold this information. As such, we will not be able to provide this data. I can, however, provide you with background information about refugees resettled in New Zealand through the Refugee Quota Programme and other relevant categories.

There are two specific categories under which refugees arrive in New Zealand – the Refugee Quota Programme and the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship Category (CORS). Refugees considered for resettlement under the Refugee Quota Programme must be recognised as mandated refugees and referred to New Zealand by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), according to prescribed resettlement guidelines. All family members included as part of the Resettlement Referral are considered to be mandated refugees. Immediate family members who are not in the RRF are not included in the residence application but can subsequently be sponsored under the Refugee Quota Family Reunification Category (RQFR).

In order to be recognised as a refugee, one step in the process is that UNHCR must determine there is a “convention reason” for the persecution from which they are seeking protection or reasons they have fled their home country. New Zealand does not collate data on the convention reason that applied to any individual, nor is there any distinction made between those who applied under one convention or another. When INZ processes and decides individual cases, the following factors are taken into consideration - INZ policy, credibility, settlement, security, immigration risk, and health.

Refugees granted residence in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota Programme who are separated from their immediate family can apply for family reunification under the Refugee Quota Family Reunification category (RQFR). Applicants being sponsored under RQFR are most often in their country of origin and are not mandated refugees.

CORS is a provision which is complementary to the Refugee Quota Programme, enabling New Zealand-based community organisations to provide direct resettlement support to refugees. Principal and secondary applicants must be mandated as refugees and meet relevant immigration policies for the category, including security, risk and health assessments.

For further information on the refugee programme, the countries from which New Zealand has received refugees, and experiences of the daily life of refugees in New Zealand, please visit the link below on the Immigration New Zealand website: -

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/our-strategies-and-projects/supporting-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/refugee-and-protection-unit/new-zealand-refugee-quota-programme>

I hope that you find this information informative and helpful.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact [INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Whiteridge  
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Immigration New Zealand