



20 January 2023

Narinder Jandu

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DOIA 2223-1203

Dear Narinder

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2022 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*"I am a New Zealand citizen. I would like to request some information regarding Culturally Arranged Marriage Visa Application.*

- 1. Can you please advise how many applications are in queue as of 05-12-2022?*
- 2. Would you please advise how many applications were approved and declined during last 1 year?*
- 3. What is the average time a visitor visa application is handed to a case officer?*
- 4. What is the earliest time frame a CAM application is approved based on the last six months statistics?*
- 5. How long does it take to get CAM visa approved?"*

## **Our Response**

### **Question One**

As at 5 December 2022, there were 169 Culturally Arranged Marriage Visitor Visa applications in a queue awaiting allocation to an immigration officer.

### **Question Two**

The table below shows the number of Culturally Arranged Marriage visitor visa applications that were approved and declined in the last year (1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022).

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Number of applications</b>
Approved	319
Declined	275

### **Question Three**

Allocations of visa applications to immigration officers are not held in a reportable format. The information requested is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with section 18A of the OIA, I have considered whether fixing a charge under section 15, or extending the time limit under section 15A, would enable your request to be granted, but it is my view that neither would do so.

In accordance with section 18B of the OIA, I have also considered whether consulting with you would assist you to make the request in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal, but in my view it would not.

**Question Four**

The shortest processing time for an approved Culturally Arranged Marriage Visitor Visa application completed between 1 July 2022 and 31 December 2022 was less than one weekday. Please note this includes applications that were initially made and assessed under a different category, but then replaced with a Culturally Arranged Marriage visitor visa and approved immediately.

**Question Five**

The table below displays the processing times for approved Culturally Arranged Marriage Visitor Visa applications in December 2022.

<b>December 2022: Culturally Arranged Marriage visitor visa application processing times</b>		
<b>Application</b>	<b>50% of applications completed within</b>	<b>90% of applications completed within</b>
Culturally Arranged Marriage Visitor Visa	71 weekdays	88 weekdays

I hope you find this information useful. 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



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