



3 March 2023

Marié Willemse
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DOIA 2223-1484

Dear Marié

Thank you for your email of 13 January 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

Please can you provide the below information for Permanent resident visa applications applied for by persons that fall under the Skilled Migrant residency visa category:

1) In table format, please provide the below data fields horizontally:

- Date - starting on 3 January 2023 up to an including date of response.*
- Count of Permanent resident visa applications received*
- Number of applicants on the application*
- Status of the application*
- Applications assigned to a case officer*
- Applications awaiting fee deduction*
- Applications awaiting passport return to applicants*
- Finalized applications*
- Application outcome - granted*
- Application outcome - denied*

2) Count of Permanent resident applications, for persons with a Skilled Migrant resident visa, in flight prior to 3 January 2023, and the current application statuses you have for these applications.

Our Response

We apologise for the delay in providing this response.

Question one

Applications received and current status

Please refer to the below table for the number of Permanent Resident Visa (PRV) applications (and the number of applicants represented) received from Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) resident visa holders between 3 January 2023 and 20 February 2023, broken down by the application's status, as at 25 February 2023.

Application Status	Number of applications	Number of applicants included
Received	6	10
Allocated to a case officer	38	80
In queue to be allocated to a case officer	68	125
Application decided	161	294
Total	273	509

Applications awaiting fee deduction

All PRV applications have a fee deducted at the time the application is accepted by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) for processing. If a fee is not able to be taken, then the application will not be accepted. As at 20 February 2023, INZ had received 6 PRV applications from SMC visa holders that are yet to be accepted for processing.

Applications awaiting passport return to applicants

When INZ receives and returns a passport to an applicant, a note is placed on the electronic file in INZ's Application Management System (AMS) to record that a passport has been received and subsequently returned.

To be certain whether any applicants were awaiting the return of their original passports we would need to check every application manually as this information is not held in an easily reportable format. There are 273 applications received between 3 January 2023 and 20 February 2023 and all these applications would need to be manually checked. Therefore, this part of your request is being refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In accordance with section 18(a) of the Act, I have considered whether fixing a charge under section 15 or extending the time limit under section 15(a) would enable the request to be granted but it is my view it would not. In accordance with section 18(b) of the Act, I have considered whether consulting with you would remove the reason for refusal, however, in my view it would not as to obtain the specific information would involve the manual search of paper and AMS applications.

To note, it is not a mandatory requirement for an applicant to provide their physical passport when lodging a PRV application. However, if they are provided passports are scanned and returned when applications are lodged by the support officers.

Finalised applications

Please see the below table for a breakdown of decisions made on PRV applications received from SMC resident visa holders between 3 January 2023 and 20 February 2023.

Decision on applications	Number of applications	Number of applicants included
Approved	160	293
Declined	1	1
Total	161	294

Question Two

There are 23 PRV applications, representing 51 people, received before 3 January 2023 that are currently in progress as at 25 February 2023. This includes applications that have been allocated to a immigration officer or are in a queue awaiting allocation to a immigration officer.

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.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact inzoias@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Carley', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Michael Carley

Acting General Manager, Border and Visa Operations

Immigration New Zealand