



15 March 2023

Adam Irish

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DOIA 2223-1776

Tēnā koe Adam

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*"I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act regarding the number of citizens from the People's Republic of China who have been granted residency under the refugee category for the following reasons:*

*-Uyghur Muslims or internment camp detainees -Tibetan dissidents who are Buddhist or pro-independence -Practitioners of Falun Gong -Pro-democracy Hong Kong citizens -Chinese Christians -Political dissidents*

*If you could please provide the total number each year for the last 4 years it would be greatly appreciated."*

### **Our Response**

Please refer to the table below for the total number of Chinese nationals who have been granted refugee status under the listed refugee categories each year since 2019.

Refugee Category	Year			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Christian	18	8	<=5	6
Falun Gong	23	12	22	<=5
N/A*	<=5	<=5	<=5	<=5
Political dissident	<=5	<=5	<=5	10
Uyghur	<=5	<=5		<=5
Hong Kong Citizen Pro-democracy			<=5	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>

Please note that figures of five or less have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Where information has been withheld, I do not consider that the public interest outweighs my decision to withhold the information in each respect

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)

Nāku iti nei, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lockhart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Lockhart  
**Acting General Manager – Refugee and Migrant Services**  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment