Te Pā Whakamarumaru
New Zealand Security
Intelligence Service

31 March 2023

Mr Wong
fyi-request-22213-ca9c6da2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Wong,

Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 22 March 2023 to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) seeking information about the average response time for National Security Checks for resident visa applications. You requested *"data on the average response time for a NSC for SMC Resident Visa applications- from Nov 2022 to March 2023".*

The NZSIS supports border security agencies to maintain the integrity of New Zealand's border, and each year we conduct a significant number of National Security Checks (NSC). Immigration New Zealand (INZ) administers the visa application system, including the legislative framework under which NSCs are required. The NZSIS does not approve or decline visa applications, rather we provide assessments, on request, to help INZ make decisions.

The processing time for individual NSCs varies across the year, for a number of reasons. The NZSIS conducts NSCs in response to INZ's priorities, which are dynamic and change according to circumstances.

However, for the purpose of national security, we do not disclose information about individuals going through the process, or information about the process itself. As such, I must refuse your request under section 6(a) of the OIA, as the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oia.privacy@nzsis.govt.nz. 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.

Ngā mihi

Phil McKee
Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumaru
Acting Director-General of Security