



20 June 2023

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DOIA 2223-2602 and 2223-2604

Tēnā koe Evan,

Thank you for your email of 9 May 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

**Request one – DOIA 2223-2602**

*I am writing to kindly seek the below updated information associated with Green list Tier 1(STR) applications:*

- 1. Most Recent STR approvals, declines, withdrawn numbers;*
- 2. Most recent average processing time for STR applications;*
- 3. The Top 10 industries migrant workers applied for STR applications- please provide the most recent number of visa approvals under each industry (and breakdown by occupations); and*
- 4. The Top 10 nationalities applied for STR applications - please provide number of visa approval under each nationality.*

**Request two – DOIA 2223 2604**

*Given the below 4 periods:*

- From 1 April 2019 until 31 Mar 2020*
  - From 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021*
  - From 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022*
  - From 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023*
- 1. Please advise how many Partnership-based Work Visa applications – Partner of a Worker applications that Immigration New Zealand has received, approved, declined, and withdrawn under these 4 periods above?*
  - 2. Please advise how many Partnership-based Work Visa – Partner of a Student applications that Immigration New Zealand has received, approved, declined, and withdrawn under these 4 periods above?*
  - 3. Please advise how many Working Holiday Visa applications INZ has received, approved, declined, and withdrawn under these 4 periods above?*
  - 4. What are the top 10 nationalities that have their Working Holiday Visa approved – please provide the approval numbers for each nationality?*

## Our Response

On 7 June 2023 we advised you that due to the substantial collation of information required to respond to your requests, we needed to extend the due date to 20 June 2023. We are now in a position to be able to provide a response to the two requests detailed above.

Please refer to the attached appendices for the information that you have requested. You have indicated in your requests for data to be broken down by industry. Immigration New Zealand data is not categorised by industry, instead it is categorised by two sector levels. As our two levels of sector categorisation may not correspond with your definition of industry, we have sought to provide you with complete occupation data on the understanding that you will be able to extract the data you require.

The data is provided as at 31 May 2023, and encompasses all data since the categories in question came into existence.

Information included in the appendices are as following:

Appendix one – Straight to Residence (STR) visa application data

- Contains tables one, two, three and four.

Appendix two – Partnership-based Work Visa application data

- Contains tables five, six and seven.

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, or if you require any further assistance, please contact [inzoias@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:inzoias@mbie.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen', followed by a period.

Richard Owen

**General Manager (Acting), Border and Visa Operations**  
Immigration New Zealand



## Appendix one – Straight to residence (STR) visa application data

**Table one**

The number of STR visa applications approved, declined and withdrawn as at 31 May 2023

Decision	Number of Applications
Approved	1,571
Declined	12
Withdrawn	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>

**Table two**

Processing times (in weekdays, excluding public holidays) of completed STR visa applications, as at 31 May 2023.

Median number of days to complete applications	Number of days to complete 90% of applications	Maximum number of days to complete application
33	75	162

**Table three**

STR approved visa information broken down by sector, occupation, the number of applications submitted, and the number of visas approved as at 31 May 2023

Sector		Occupation	Number of visas approved
Level 1	Level 2		
Not recorded			26
Construction	Construction	Civil Engineer	70
		Civil Engineering Technician	103
		Construction Project Manager	36
		Electrical Engineer	21
		Electrical Engineering Technician	4
		Electronic Engineering Technician	11
		Engineering Professionals nec*	22
		Geotechnical Engineer	12
		Industrial Engineer	3
		Mechanical Engineer	27
		Mechanical Engineering Draftsperson	0
		Production or Plant Engineer	11
		Project Builder	16
		Quantity Surveyor	54
		Structural Engineer	20
Surveyor	8		
Health	Care Workforce Health Professional	Registered Nurse (Aged Care)	111
		Anaesthetic Technician	0
		Anaesthetist	11
		Audiologist	0
		Cardiologist	1
		Cardiothoracic Surgeon	1
		Chiropractor	0

Clinical Psychologist	8
Dental Therapist	0
Dentist	0
Dermatologist	2
Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist	8
Educational Psychologist	2
Emergency Medicine Specialist	4
Enrolled Nurse	1
Gastroenterologist	1
General Practitioner	23
Hospital Pharmacist	0
Medical Diagnostic Radiographer	0
Medical Laboratory Scientist	10
Medical Laboratory Technician	1
Medical Practitioners nec*	8
Midwife	6
Neurologist	1
Neurosurgeon	1
Obstetrician and Gynaecologist	5
Occupational Therapist	0
Ophthalmologist	3
Organisational Psychologist	1
Orthopaedic Surgeon	3
Otorhinolaryngologist	1
Paediatrician	2
Pathologist	5
Physicist	0
Physiotherapist	1
Psychiatrist	12
Psychologists nec*	3
Psychotherapist	1
Registered Nurse (Child and Family Health)	9
Registered Nurse (Community Health)	3
Registered Nurse (Critical Care and Emergency)	69
Registered Nurse (Disability and Rehabilitation)	10
Registered Nurse (Medical Practice)	5
Registered Nurse (Medical)	140
Registered Nurse (Mental Health)	17
Registered Nurse (Paediatric)	22
Registered Nurse (Perioperative)	48
Registered Nurse (Surgical)	51
Registered Nurses nec*	5
Renal Medicine Specialist	1
Resident Medical Officer	71
Rheumatologist	0
Sonographer	0
Social Worker	0

		Specialist Physician (General Medicine)	5
		Specialist Physicians nec*	7
		Speech Pathologist (Aus)/Speech Language Therapist (NZ)	0
		Surgeon (General)	2
		Vascular Surgeon	1
ICT	ICT	Analyst Programmer	6
		Chief Information Officer	1
		Developer Programmer	36
		ICT Managers nec*	26
		ICT Project Manager	38
		ICT Security Specialist	26
		Multimedia Specialist	37
		Software Engineer	145
		Software Tester	12
		Software and Applications Programmers nec*	3
		Telecommunications Engineer	1
		Telecommunications Network Engineer	2
		Other	Professional
Electronics Engineer	3		
Environmental Research Scientist	27		
External Auditor	0		
Food Technologist	20		
Information Officer	1		
Internal Auditor	0		
Materials Engineer	1		
Other Spatial Scientist	4		
Primary Industry	Agriculture	Environmental Engineer	3
		Veterinarian	24
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,571</b>

\* not elsewhere classified

**Table four**

The top ten nationalities of applicants applying for STR visa applications, and the associated number of applications submitted, and visas approved\* as at 31 May 2023

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Number of applications submitted</b>	<b>Number of applications approved</b>
India	667	408
China	335	5
Philippines	245	198
Great Britain	195	152
South Africa	192	149
United States of America	163	126
Sri Lanka	110	103
Fiji	51	35
Iran	40	0
Malaysia	38	28

\*Please note application processing timeframes for different nationalities will vary. This can be due to a number of factors including third party checks and, in some cases, waiting for information from an applicant.

## Appendix two – Partnership-based Work Visa application data

Please note this data is broken down into the following four periods:

- From 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020
- From 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021
- From 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022
- From 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023

**Table five**

Partnership-based Work Visa applications submitted, approved, declined and withdrawn, broken down by partner of a student, and partner of a worker visa types, as at 31 May 2023

Decision year	Visa type	Number of applications			
		Submitted	Approved	Declined	Withdrawn
2019/20	Visa, Work, Partner of Student	3,554	2,782	279	87
	Visa, Work, Partner of a worker	26,836	24,682	926	360
2020/21	Visa, Work, Partner of Student	1,858	1,476	10	21
	Visa, Work, Partner of a worker	16,366	14,815	181	361
2021/22	Visa, Work, Partner of Student	1,109	1,005	15	19
	Visa, Work, Partner of a worker	18,861	17,730	143	441
2022/23	Visa, Work, Partner of Student	2,776	2,114	189	42
	Visa, Work, Partner of a worker	18,210	15,671	250	399

**Table six**

The number of Working Holiday Visa applications submitted, approved, declined and withdrawn as at 31 May 2023

Decision Year	Number of applications			
	Submitted	Approved	Declined	Withdrawn
2019/20	65,310	61,739	1,705	899
2020/21	9,241	5,816	114	243
2021/22	22,900	21,884	32	109
2022/23	63,630	62,258	838	614



**Table seven**

The top ten nationalities of applicants applying for a Working Holiday Visa each year, and the associated number of visas approved as at 31 May 2023.

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Great Britain	11,075
Germany	9,960
France	8,875
United States of America	4,034
Canada	2,939
South Korea	2,911
Japan	2,660
Italy	2,135
Malaysia	1,931
Ireland	1,735
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Great Britain	1,763
Canada	457
France	433
Malaysia	386
Argentina	356
Chile	273
Italy	270
Germany	244
Czech Republic	230
Japan	217
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Great Britain	3,126
France	2,499
Malaysia	2,162
United States of America	1,819
Germany	1,695
South Korea	1,297
Czech Republic	1,139
Japan	1,131
Canada	865
Italy	802
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Great Britain	8,797
France	7,449
Germany	6,678
United States of America	4,724
Malaysia	2,948
South Korea	2,875
Japan	2,699
China	2,371
Argentina	2,342
Canada	2,314