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Tēnā koe Anna

OIA request 24/25 0040 Request for information on citizenship applications currently under review by the Minister

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 9 July 2024.

You requested –

- 1. Could you please explain the process of preparing a citizenship application for the minister's review and submission?*
- 2. Who evaluates citizenship applications? Specifically, which advisors are involved, and on what basis do they provide recommendations, particularly for cases that fall under special circumstances?*
- 3. How many advisors are currently employed in the department for this purpose?*
- 4. How long does it typically take to prepare an application for the minister's review, and what is the average duration for the minister to make a decision based on the reviewed cases over the past three years?*
- 5. How many applications are currently awaiting the minister's review, and which is the oldest application pending?*

In response to your request, I can provide you with the following information.

Most of the information you have requested is already available via proactively released Official Information Act (OIA) responses on the Department's website - www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2. Links to these responses have been provided below.

Question One

This information is already available on the Department's website via OIA response [2324-0823](#).

Therefore, I must refuse this portion of your request under section 18(d) of the Act; that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available

Question Two

This information is already available on the Department's website via OIA response [2324-0781](#).

Therefore, I must refuse this portion of your request under section 18(d) of the Act; that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available

Questions Three and Four

This information is already available on the Department's website via OIA response [2324-0908](#).

Therefore, I must refuse this portion of your request under section 18(d) of the Act; that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available

It may be helpful to explain that reviewing submission reports are but one aspect of a Service Advice and Support advisor's duties at the Department. As per response [2324-0908](#), there are several parties involved in preparing, reviewing and deciding on a submission, prior to it going to the Minister's office for consideration.

I can advise that the average duration for the Minister to make a decision over the past three years was 12 days.

Question Five

I can advise there are currently two applications awaiting the Minister's review. The oldest of these applications was lodged on 3 October 2021.

There is a lot of publicly available information online about citizenship and the timeframes for processing citizenship applications on the Department's website www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2 via proactively published OIA responses. You can use the search the responses by using 'ctrl' + 'f' and typing 'citizenship' in the search field.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2.

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



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