



10 February 2025

Mary

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DOIA-REQ-0007897

Tēnā koe Mary

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

*I kindly request clarification on the following matters related to the Parent Resident Visa process, particularly regarding the steps following applicants' fulfillment of all pending requirements stated in the Approval-in-Principle (AIP) letter:*

- 1. For the 2,500 yearly parent visas, how many have been issued to date in the current financial year? Please provide a monthly breakdown, categorised by the queued pool and the ballot pool.*
- 2. Is the visa quota allocated at the Approval-in-Principle (AIP) stage, or is the quota only applied after applicants have fulfilled all AIP conditions (such as payment of ESOL fees, passport verification) and the eVisa is granted?*
- 3. If the visa quota is exhausted, for applications that have been approved in principle and where applicants have met all AIP conditions, will applicants be notified when the quota limit has been reached?*
- 4. Please provide the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), staff guidance, templates, and any other relevant documentation outlining the steps involved in issuing an eVisa once applicants have met all AIP conditions after their application has been approved in principle.*
- 5. Clarification on "Internal Process" Status:  
When an application is advised by the immigration officer that it is undergoing an "internal process" after meeting all AIP conditions and while still awaiting the eVisa, could you please clarify what specific steps or procedures this status entails?*
- 6. Why is it that in some cases, an eVisa is issued within the next working day, while in other cases, it takes weeks or even months? What factors influence this variation in processing times?*



## Our Response

**Question 1:** *For the 2,500 yearly parent visas, how many have been issued to date in the current financial year? Please provide a monthly breakdown, categorised by the queued pool and the ballot pool.*

Table: The number of Parent Resident Visas issued in the 2024/25 financial year to date broken down by issue month and EOI selection type, as at 21 January 2025.

Month	Ballot	Queue	Total
July 2024	26	311	337
August 2024	61	367	428
September 2024	48	344	392
October 2024	106	509	615
November 2024	42	232	274
December 2024	99	10	109
January 2025	14	3	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>2,172</b>

More information on Parent Resident Visas can be found on the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/common-topics/parent-resident-visa>

**Question 2:** *Is the visa quota allocated at the Approval-in-Principle (AIP) stage, or is the quota only applied after applicants have fulfilled all AIP conditions (such as payment of ESOL fees, passport verification) and the eVisa is granted?*

I refer you to immigration instruction F4.1.10(a) of the INZ Operational Manual which states the limit or quota is on the number of resident visas that can be granted under the Parent Category. Furthermore, instruction R5.60(b) states the date of the final decision on an approved application is the date the residence class visa is granted.

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#44878.htm>

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#31001.htm>

**Question 3:** *If the visa quota is exhausted, for applications that have been approved in principle and where applicants have met all AIP conditions, will applicants be notified when the quota limit has been reached?*

The INZ website will be updated once the limit for either the queued or ballot visas issued has been reached. At that point, further visas will not be able to be issued until the new 'quota' becomes available on 1 July 2025.

**Question 4:** *Please provide the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), staff guidance, templates, and any other relevant documentation outlining the steps involved in issuing an eVisa once applicants have met all AIP conditions after their application has been approved in principle.*

Please refer to the attached appendix for the following Standard Operating Procedure Approve application (issue eVisa and notify applicant).

**Question 5: Clarification on "Internal Process" Status:**

*When an application is advised by the immigration officer that it is undergoing an "internal process" after meeting all AIP conditions and while still awaiting the eVisa, could you please clarify what specific steps or procedures this status entails?*

Issuing of visas is systematically managed to ensure the visa limits for this category are not exceeded.

**Question 6:** *Why is it that in some cases, an eVisa is issued within the next working day, while in other cases, it takes weeks or even months? What factors influence this variation in processing times?*

Applications that have been approved in principle (AIP) are placed in a queue and are regularly checked to see whether AIP conditions have been met. However, processing times will vary as we progress towards the annual visa limit. For example, as INZ nears the visa limits, visa issuing will slow to ensure the limits are not exceeded.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. 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 noa, nā



Jock Gilray  
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