



19 March 2026

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Ed Hirsch

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Tēnā koe Ed,

**OIA request 25/26 0877 Request for information about citizenship ceremonies in Wellington 2026**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 19 February 2026.

You requested –

- 1. The planned dates and months for citizenship ceremonies scheduled to take place in Wellington during 2026.*
- 2. The current number of individuals (as of today) who have been approved for citizenship but have not yet been assigned to a citizenship ceremony in Wellington.*
- 3. The total capacity of each forthcoming citizenship ceremony and how many spare spaces are currently available in each.*
- 4. The oldest citizenship approval date for applicants in wellington who are still awaiting assignment to a citizenship ceremony.*
- 5. The current average wait time for someone in Wellington to be assigned to a ceremony*

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

**Questions one**

I can advise that the following 2026 ceremony dates have been confirmed so far:

- 23 March 2026 – 5:30pm
- 23 March 2026 – 7:00pm
- 20 April 2026 – 5:30pm
- 20 April 2026 – 7:00pm

Further citizenship ceremony dates for 2026 will be announced by Wellington City Council once confirmed.

I note, citizenship ceremony information is available on the Wellington City Council website: <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/about-the-council/mayor-and-councillors/office-of-the-mayor/citizenship-ceremonies>

### Question two

I can advise as of the 24 February 2026, 24 people in Wellington have been approved for citizenship but have not yet been assigned to a citizenship ceremony.

These individuals cannot attend the currently scheduled citizenship ceremonies for various reasons.

### Question three

The confirmed ceremony sessions and their current allocation status are:

Ceremony Date and Time	Capacity	Allocated	Spaces Available
23 March, 5.30pm	125	125	0
23 March, 7.00pm	125	123	2
20 April, 5.30pm	125	4	121
20 April, 7.00pm	125	88	37

Please note that not all people who have been allocated to a ceremony have yet been sent their formal invitation.

### Question four

I can advise the person who has been waiting the longest for assignment to a citizenship ceremony in Wellington was approved on 10 July 2025. The individual has been unable to attend ceremonies to date.

### Question five

I can advise that the current average wait time for the 24 people awaiting assignment to a citizenship ceremony is 53 days.

This reflects the specific individuals currently unassigned and may vary depending on citizenship ceremony availability and individual circumstances.

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: <https://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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julia Taylor  
Director Branch Performance  
Regulatory and Identity Services