



28 April 2026

DOIA-REQ-0030832

Winnie
fyi-request-34257-9e346240@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Winnie

Thank you for your email of 26 March 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, information relating to movements of failed refugee claimants once they leave New Zealand under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the full wording of your request is attached in Appendix one.

Our response

Question 1

Whether MBIE and/or INZ holds any information regarding post-return monitoring, follow-up, or outcome tracking in relation to the above persons after they returned to their country of nationality or former habitual residence.

Question 2

If held, please provide the following data, as far as possible, aggregated by financial year and nationality:

(1) the number of persons who returned to their country of nationality or former habitual residence;

(2) the number of cases known to MBIE/INZ after return in which the above persons experienced one or more of the following:

persecution ;

torture ;

cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment ;

arbitrary detention ;

enforced disappearance ;

other serious harm

3. If MBIE/INZ does not hold structured statistical data on the above subject, please clearly state the following:

(2) if so, the scope, purpose, and method of such tracking;

In response to the above questions MBIE is refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by MBIE and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department (for itself and for a departmental agency hosted by it or an interdepartmental executive board serviced by it) or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

Question 3

If MBIE/INZ does not hold structured statistical data on the above subject, please clearly state the following:

(1) whether such post-return tracking is conducted;

(3) if not, why such tracking is not conducted;

(4) whether the establishment of such a tracking or outcome-recording mechanism has ever been considered

(5) if MBIE/INZ does not hold the above post-return outcome information, whether this means that MBIE/INZ does not hold any follow-up information concerning unsuccessful claimants who, after return, suffered persecution, torture, arbitrary detention, or other serious harm.

With regard to the questions above, I can confirm that no post-return tracking is conducted. New Zealand has a thorough and effective system for determining international protection needs. This includes the right to a de novo appeal to the Immigration Protection Tribunal, an independent tribunal, meaning the appeal body reassesses the protection claim afresh on its merits. The tribunal is not limited to reviewing the correctness of the initial decision, and may consider new evidence, updated country information, and changes in the claimant's circumstances before reaching its own independent determination. Individuals who are ultimately declined have therefore been assessed through a comprehensive process and found not to be in need of international protection.

There are both practical and legal barriers to any New Zealand government agency attempting to monitor failed asylum seekers after they have returned to their country of origin; as such, the establishment of a tracking or outcome-recording mechanism has not been considered, and MBIE does not hold any follow-up information on unsuccessful claimants post-return.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.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.

Nāku noa, nā



Alejandra Mercado
General Manager Refugee and Migrant Services (Acting)
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Appendix – full wording of your request

Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request the following information held by MBIE and/or Immigration New Zealand (INZ), including information held on their behalf.

This request concerns persons who made a refugee/protected person claim in New Zealand, but whose claim was ultimately unsuccessful, and who subsequently left New Zealand, were removed, or were deported to their country of nationality or former habitual residence.

Please provide the following information for the period from the 2018/19 financial year to the 2024/25 financial year:

1. Whether MBIE and/or INZ holds any information regarding post-return monitoring, follow-up, or outcome tracking in relation to the above persons after they returned to their country of nationality or former habitual residence.

2. If held, please provide the following data, as far as possible, aggregated by financial year and nationality:

(1) the number of persons who returned to their country of nationality or former habitual residence;
(2) the number of cases known to MBIE/INZ after return in which the above persons experienced one or more of the following:
persecution ;
torture ;
cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment ;
arbitrary detention ;
enforced disappearance ;
other serious harm

3. If MBIE/INZ does not hold structured statistical data on the above subject, please clearly state the following:

(1) whether such post-return tracking is conducted;
(2) if so, the scope, purpose, and method of such tracking;
(3) if not, why such tracking is not conducted;
(4) whether the establishment of such a tracking or outcome-recording mechanism has ever been considered;
(5) if MBIE/INZ does not hold the above post-return outcome information, whether this means that MBIE/INZ does not hold any follow-up information concerning unsuccessful claimants who, after return, suffered persecution, torture, arbitrary detention, or other serious harm