



30 June 2026

K Patel

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DOIA-REQ-0032896

Tēnā koe K Patel

Thank you for your email of 11 May 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

REQUEST 1 – PARENT BOOST VISITOR VISA: APPLICATION STATISTICS

The Parent Boost Visitor Visa opened for applications on 29 September 2025. Please provide the following data from 29 September 2025 to the date this request is processed:

- 1a. The total number of Parent Boost Visitor Visa applications received.*
- 1b. Of those applications, broken down into the following categories:*
 - Number approved*
 - Number declined*
 - Number withdrawn by the applicant*
 - Number currently pending a decision*
- 1c. The median and average processing time (in calendar days) for applications decided to date.*
- 1d. The top five countries of origin of applicants (by nationality of the parent applicant).*
- 1e. The number of applications that were declined specifically due to failure to meet:*
 - The financial/income threshold (sponsor or applicant)*
 - The health insurance requirement*
 - The health or medical requirement*

(Where INZ records decline reasons in a way that allows this breakdown, please provide it. If not, please advise what decline reason data is held.)

REQUEST 2 – NUMBER OF MIGRANT FAMILY UNITS HOLDING RESIDENT CLASS VISAS IN NEW ZEALAND

I request data on the number of migrant family units in New Zealand where at least one member of the family holds a resident class visa (i.e., a resident visa or permanent resident visa). For the purposes of this request, I ask that INZ/MBIE define and count a "family unit" as follows:

- A family unit is a principal resident visa holder together with any associated partner and/or dependent children linked to that principal applicant through an immigration application or recognised relationship, regardless of whether those family members hold a resident class visa, a work visa, a student visa, or a visitor visa.*
- Each such grouping should be counted as ONE family unit, not as multiple individuals.*
- For example: if a husband holds a resident visa, his wife holds a work visa, and they have one dependent child on a student visa, this counts as ONE family unit.*

Specifically, I request:

2a. The total number of such family units currently in New Zealand where the principal applicant holds a resident class visa, using the family unit definition above.

2b. If INZ does not record data in this exact format, please advise:

- What data is held regarding resident visa holders and their associated family members, and
- The closest available equivalent figure or dataset that could assist in estimating the total number of resident-class migrant family units in New Zealand.

PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST

This information is sought in the public interest to assess the reach and accessibility of the Parent Boost Visitor Visa relative to the eligible migrant population in New Zealand. The Government has stated the visa's settings will be reviewed in 2027. This data is essential for migrant communities to meaningfully participate in and understand that review.

If any part of this request requires clarification or is to be refused in part, I ask that the remainder be processed in full and that I be advised of the specific grounds for any withholding under sections 6, 9, or 18 of the OIA.

We apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

Our Response

Questions 1a and 1b

The total number of Parent Boost Visitor Visa applications received.

Of those applications, broken down into the following categories:

- Number approved
- Number declined
- Number withdrawn by the applicant
- Number currently pending a decision

Table 1: The total number of Parent Boost Visitor Visa applications, broken down by status, as at 28 June 2026.

Application status	Applications
Received	1,174
Withdrawn	138
Approved	627
Declined	41
In Progress	355

Question 1c

The median and average processing time (in calendar days) for applications decided to date.

The median processing time of Parent Boost Visitor Visa is 53 working days and the average processing time is 60 working days, as at 28 June 2026.

Question 1d

The top five countries of origin of applicants (by nationality of the parent applicant).

As at 28 June 2026, the top five countries for submitted Parent Boost Visitor Visa applications, in descending order, are India, China, South Africa, Great Britain and Fiji:

Country	Number of submitted applications
India	399
China	309

Country	Number of submitted applications
South Africa	88
Great Britain	73
Fiji	62

Question 1e

The number of applications that were declined specifically due to failure to meet:

- *The financial/income threshold (sponsor or applicant)*
- *The health insurance requirement*
- *The health or medical requirement*

(Where INZ records decline reasons in a way that allows this breakdown, please provide it. If not, please advise what decline reason data is held.)

Table 2: The number of Parent Boost visitor visa applications declined between 19 September 2025 – 8 June 2026, broken down by decline reason recorded, as at 11 June 2026.

Decline reason*	Number of applications**
Funds must be sufficient and genuinely available	14
Applicant must hold acceptable travel and/or health insurance	3
Health requirements not met	14

*Applications can be declined for not meeting multiple Immigration Instructions. The applications noted above may have been declined on additional reasons that are not included in the requested data.

**A count of applications is included for each decline reason included in the requested data, therefore, applications may be recorded more than once if declined on more than one of these reasons.

Question 2a

The total number of such family units currently in New Zealand where the principal applicant holds a resident class visa, using the family unit definition above.

The total number of family units currently onshore is 94,717. The data is current as at 11 June 2026. The number of family units onshore captures where a residence class visa holder has acted as a supporting partner or guardian in an application by a relative, and where both the residence class visa holder and the relative are onshore. Individuals can be counted in one or both of these figures. Further detail describing the family unit data, which pertains to Question 2a, is detailed in the response to Question 2b for clarity.

Question 2b

If INZ does not record data in this exact format, please advise

- *What data is held regarding resident visa holders and their associated family members, and*
- *The closest available equivalent figure or dataset that could assist in estimating the total number of resident-class migrant family units in New Zealand.*

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not maintain a dataset that directly identifies or counts “family units” in the format requested. However, INZ holds the following relevant data:

- Current visa information at an individual level, including visa type and status (e.g. whether a person currently holds a resident class visa and is in New Zealand)
- Applicant-level records for visa applications, which identify individuals as principal applicants, partners, or dependent children
- Application and contact-based linkage data, which can connect individuals across visa applications (for example, linking partners or dependent children to a principal applicant)

Using these data sources, the closest available equivalent dataset is one that identifies individuals who currently hold a resident class visa and are in New Zealand, and links them to associated partner and dependent child records identified through visa applications and contact/sponsorship relationships. This provides an approximate view of family groupings but does not represent a formally maintained or definitive count of family units.

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.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact inzoias@mbie.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Adamson', written in a cursive style.

Chris Adamson
Director Visa
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment