



16 June 2026

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0033229-Aj Wright

Aj Wright

Email: fyi-request-34737-d61dacd2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Aj,

Thank you for your email of 18 May 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I am requesting information relating to visa overstayers and student visa compliance within New Zealand.

I request the following information regarding individuals currently believed to be unlawfully in New Zealand due to overstaying the conditions or duration of their visas:

The total number of known or estimated visa overstayers currently in New Zealand.

A breakdown of overstayers by the length of time they have remained unlawfully in New Zealand, including:

More than 6 months

More than 1 year

More than 2 years

More than 5 years

More than 10 years

The age demographics of these overstayers, including:

Under 18

18–24

25–34

35–44

45–54

55+

The countries of origin or citizenship of overstayers, including a breakdown by nationality where available.

The regions, cities, or districts within New Zealand where overstayers are known or believed to be residing, where such information is recorded.

Information on the methods and processes Immigration New Zealand uses to identify, monitor, locate, and deport or repatriate visa overstayers, including:

Compliance operations

Data matching with other agencies

Workplace inspections

Community reporting mechanisms

Border alerts

Cooperation with overseas authorities

The number of deportations or removals carried out in the past five years relating specifically to visa overstayers.

The estimated costs incurred annually by Immigration New Zealand relating to:

Locating overstayers

Compliance investigations

Deportation and repatriation processes

The number of compliance officers or investigators employed specifically for immigration compliance and overstayer investigations.

Information regarding individuals currently in New Zealand on student visas, including:

Total number of active student visa holders

Countries of origin

Age demographics

Institutions attended where available

Information on how Immigration New Zealand monitors and enforces student visa work limitations, including:

How compliance with the 20-hour-per-week work restriction is verified

Whether payroll, tax, or IRD information is used for compliance checks

The number of investigations conducted into student visa work breaches in the past five years

The number of student visas cancelled or enforcement actions taken due to breaches of work conditions

Information regarding employers found to have knowingly employed individuals in breach of visa conditions, including:

Number of investigations

Number of prosecutions or penalties issued

Industries most commonly involved

Any available statistics regarding:

Overstayers involved in criminal offending

Overstayers currently serving prison sentences or on corrections orders

Instances where overstayers have later obtained residency or other legal status

Copies of any current policies, operational manuals, or guidance documents relating to:

Visa overstayer enforcement

Student visa compliance monitoring

Risk assessment procedures for unlawful migrants

If any part of this request is likely to be refused under the Act, I request that the remaining information still be released where possible.

I would prefer the information in electronic format where available.

I am writing to advise you that MBIE will provide a response but needs to extend the time available to answer your request. MBIE's response will be sent to you no later than 30 June 2026.

The reason for the extension is that your request is for a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with our operations.

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

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to extend the time limit. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Michael Carley
Business Support Manager

Immigration Compliance and Investigations