



8 July 2016

Emma Cullen

(by email: [fyi-request-4084-a6157b5f@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-4084-a6157b5f@requests.fyi.org.nz))

File No: DOIA 1516-1659

Dear Emma Cullen,

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) received on 26 June 2016, in reply to an OIA response sent to you on 21 June, requesting the following information from Immigration New Zealand:

*Thank you for the information provided thus far. I do question though how the answer to the questions about the length of time each asylum seeker has been held in prison and detention is matter of privacy. I believe it is a matter of public interest to how long asylum seekers are held in prison or detention because of the effects to mental and physical health.*

*Could you please confirm*

- 1. The length of time each asylum seeker has been held in prison since 2011*
- 2. The length of time each asylum seeker has been held in detention since 2011*
- 3. What number of people are deported after being in prison and detention since 2011*

Our response

- 1. The length of time each asylum seeker has been held in prison since 2011*
- 2. The length of time each asylum seeker has been held in detention since 2011*

The information you have requested is not collected in a format that can be easily reported. Each individual file of a person who has claimed asylum would need to be manually searched and the information collated. I have therefore refused your request under section 18(f) of the OIA, where that information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I have considered whether fixing a charge under section 15 or extending the time limit under section 15A would enable your request to be granted, but it is my view that neither would do so.

The information is also being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

Section 151 of the Immigration Act 2009 outlines that confidentiality is to be maintained in respect of claimants, refugees and protected persons.

- 3. What number of people are deported after being in prison and detention since 2011*

I understand you to be asking how many people who have claimed asylum are deported after being in prison and detention since 2011.

The information you have requested is not collected in a format that can be easily reported. Each individual file of a person who has claimed asylum would need to be manually searched and the information collated. I have therefore refused your request under section 18(f) of the OIA, where that information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. I have considered whether fixing a charge under section 15 or extending the time limit under section 15A would enable your request to be granted, but it is my view that neither would do so.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Sarah Baird, Senior Business Advisor, Business Support, Immigration New Zealand at [sarah.baird@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:sarah.baird@mbie.govt.nz) or 04 901 8692

Yours sincerely



Nicola Hogg  
General Manager – Compliance, Risk and Intelligence Services  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment