



5 November 2021

Ref: DOIA 2122-0838

Jordon

[fyi-request-17082-11d700b9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17082-11d700b9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Jordon,

Thank you for your email of 7 October 2021, to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) the following information:

1. *Could you please provide number of onshore Parent category EOI in pool ?*
2. *Also how many onshore applicants in total ?*
3. *Could you also share any relevant recent correspond for parents category EOI reopen for onshore parents?*
4. *Any consideration to include onshore parents in one off resident visa especially those who is been in nz since 3 years on different temporary visa (visitor, student) ??*

Your request has been numbered for the purposes of this response.

MBIE has identified the following information regarding *parts 1 and 2* of your request:

1. *The number of onshore Parent category EOI in pool = 616*
2. *The total number of onshore applicants = 908*

With respect to *part 3* of your request: as you will be aware, Parent Resident Visa category expression of interest (EOI) selections have been suspended since 2016. Immigration New Zealand was due to restart selections under the current criteria in May 2020, but this was suspended due to the impacts of COVID-19 on visa processing. No decisions have been taken on resuming selections for the Parent Resident Visa category. A planned review of the category closer to when border travel is more available will look at barriers to access, including considering the income thresholds.

Officials provided advice to the Minister on this topic in the following paper:

	Document type	Date	Title
1	Briefing	26 March 2021	Options to resume selection of Expressions of Interest for the Parent and Skilled Migrant Categories

This document is due to be proactively released in the near future, so I am withholding this document in full under section 18(d) of the Act. I expect the release will happen before the end of November 2021, and once release you will find the information at the following link:

- [www.parliament.nz/en/site-search?term=cabinet+papers](http://www.parliament.nz/en/site-search?term=cabinet+papers).

In terms of *part 4*, you also ask whether there was consideration of including parents in the eligibility for the 2021 Resident Visa. Parents are not necessarily excluded from eligibility – they can apply if they are on an eligible work visa type and meet the other eligibility criteria. The 2021 Resident Visa recognises the contribution that the onshore migrant workforce has made to New Zealand throughout COVID-19, and looks to retain the skilled and settled workforce we already have and those with skills which are scarce both here and overseas. Visitor and student visas are excluded from eligibility as the primary purpose of the person being in New Zealand is not to work.

The eligibility criteria for the 2021 Residence Visa are designed to be broad and simple. The criteria is focussed on people whose primary purpose for being in New Zealand is to work. This provides certainty to the vast majority of migrant workers and businesses, and applies to settled, skilled and scarce migrant workers, reflecting their critical part in New Zealand's economy.

Where people are not eligible for the one-off resident visa, there may be other options towards residence. There are also other options to continue working in New Zealand, such as the extended Essential Skills visa or other work visas.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Kristin Mednis**  
Acting Manager, Immigration (Skills and Residence) Policy