



20 November 2023

45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011

Phone +64 4 495 7200

[dia.govt.nz](https://www.dia.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

OIA request 23/24 0284 Request for citizenship by grant statistics.

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department), by way of transfer from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, on 25 October 2023.

You requested –

1. *How many citizenships application received or accessed/pending under section 9 AND 9A /Disqualifying convictions /ministerial approval since 2010.*
2. *How many applications approved*
3. *How many applications declined*
4. *Provide table list of original country of citizenship of applicants such Fijian, Indian, British,*
5. *Timeframe used to access these applications.*

In response to your request, I can provide you with the following information.

Questions one to three

I can advise that as of 20 November 2023 there are 13 citizenship by grant applications pending submission under section 9(1)(b). The remainder of the statistics on citizenship by grant applications assessed under section 9 of the Citizenship Act 1977 is available on the Department's website <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Citizenship-Grants>. Therefore, I must refuse this portion of your request pursuant to section 18(d) of the Act: the information requested is or will soon be publicly available. The data for 2023 will be available after the calendar year is completed.

Should you be interested, information is also available via a proactively released OIA response, [OIA 2122-0336 \(dia.govt.nz\)](#).

With regards to *disqualifying convictions*, please refer to the table below for the number of citizenship by grant applications assessed under section 9A(2) of the Citizenship Act 1977 between January 2010 and 9 November 2023.

Year	Final Status	
	Approved	Not Approved
2014	.	<5
2015	<5	.
2017	<5	.
2019	.	<5
2021	<5	<5

Caveats to data

- As the data is extracted from a dynamic system, there may be small variances when compared with prior or future datasets.
- Counts between 1 and 4 are masked by <5 to help prevent identification of individuals.

I can advise that as of 20 November 2023 there are 26 character related citizenship by grant applications pending submission.

Question four

Given the low numbers this information has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act: the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Question five

The Department does not place a maximum time limit on the processing of a citizenship by grant application and there is no “automatic right” to citizenship by grant – every application must be considered against a range of criteria defined in the Law.

Not all citizenship by grant applications are the same. While some can be assessed faster using automated checks, others might require manual intervention by a case officer. Applications requiring manual checks may take longer. Some of these non-automated checks rely on information from sources outside of New Zealand, which can cause additional delays.

Also, it is not possible for the Department to isolate the efforts associated with external agency checks which is where the good character information is drawn from. This is because they are performed throughout the processing time and no record is kept of the administration time it takes to request each piece of information. Therefore, I must refuse this portion of your request pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act: the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on its website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2>.

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.

Ngā mihi



John Crawford-Smith
Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence (Acting)
Service Delivery and Operations

Proactively released by the Department of Internal Affairs