



29 October 2021

Privacy of natural persons

Ref: DOIA 2122-0517

Dear Privacy of natural persons

Thank you for your email of 1 September 2021, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*In the attached press release, "Changes provide certainty for offshore resident visa holders", the Minister advised that around 5,600 resident visa holders currently offshore have travel conditions that are either about to, or have recently expired.*

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/changes-provide-certainty-offshore-resident-visa-holders>

*How many of the 5,600 resident visa holders who were offshore who had travel conditions that were either about to, or had recently expired had the travel conditions extended? We presume all of them.*

*How many of the 5,600 resident visa holders who had the travel conditions extended were able to travel to NZ without requiring a border exception? Of that group, how many have actually entered NZ?*

*Of the of the 5,600 resident visa holders who had the travel conditions extended how many have applied for a border exception? Of that group who applied for a border exception how many have been granted a border exception?*

*Of the group of resident visa holders who had the travel conditions extended and who have been granted a border exception how many have actually entered New Zealand?*

## **Our Response**

The COVID-19 border restrictions have meant many people granted a resident visa could not travel or return to New Zealand before the travel conditions on their visa expired.

From 12 September 2020 to 27 October 2021, there were a total of 4,157 offshore resident visa holders whose travel conditions were extended by Immigration New Zealand (INZ). 1071 of those clients arrived into New Zealand without an individual border exception.

From the group of 4,157 offshore resident visa holders whose travel conditions were extended by INZ, 306 clients applied for individual border exceptions. 153 of those clients were approved border exceptions and 136 clients subsequently travelled into New Zealand.

Further information on travel conditions extended for New Zealand resident visa holders overseas can be found on the INZ website here: [Immigration New Zealand](https://www.immigration.govt.nz)

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](http://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](mailto:INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg', written in a cursive style.

Nicola Hogg  
General Manager - Border and Visa Operations  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment