

Our Ref DOIA 23-232

17 July 2023

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Dear 

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 29 June 2023 for "a month-on-month breakdown since 2017 of how many foreigners have been declined the opportunity to purchase land in New Zealand since the Government's foreign buyer ban on property was introduced? Also please provide a breakdown of how much the foreigner was prepared to invest in New Zealand, in each case?"

We have **attached** a table which shows the applications that have been declined in the period broken down by month.

In relation to part two of your request while applicants are required to provide us with details of the proposed amount of development capital that will be introduced into New Zealand as a result of their investment under some pathways, we do not have this information for all applications and do not collate that information where we do have it. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under sections 18(f) and (g) of the Official Information Act as it would require substantial collation and research where available and we do not hold this information for all applications.

The reason for the low number of declines is that the overseas investment team works closely with applicants and their advisors before an application is lodged. We recommend applicants and their advisors undertake a pre-application meeting with our staff so we can advise on what a quality application looks like and highlight any issues or matters that may need to be addressed by applicants.

LINZ also handles many enquiries from overseas investor applicants or their advisors where we provide guidance on whether consent is required. In a number of these interactions, we effectively stop applications from being lodged by applicants who are either unlikely to meet the criteria for consent or from investors who are eligible to purchase without consent. Over the last 12 months we have received just over 1,000 enquires, with nearly half of these being based around eligibility.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oio@linz.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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand's website. This is likely to be published by 31 August 2023.

Yours sincerely



Anneke Turton
Manager Application

Proactive Release

Attachment: Declined sensitive land applications

This table includes all declined applications to acquire an interest in sensitive land by month and pathway where applications have been declined since the rules changed on 22 October 2018.

Declined applications are those where a decision has been made that the criteria for consent have not been met. Applications may also have the following statuses:

- Not accepted for assessment (if they do not have the information required);
- Lapsed;
- Withdrawn (including following after being informed they are unlikely to get consent); or
- Consent is not required.

These applications have not been included in the table.

Pathway	Benefit to NZ	One home to live in	Total
Month decided	Declined	Declined	Declined
Nov		1	1
Dec	1	1	2
2019			
Jan		1	1
Mar		1	1
May	2		2
Jun		2	2
Jul		1	1
Aug	1		1
Sep	1		1
Oct	2		2
2020			
Jan	1		1
Mar	7		7
Jul	1		1
Dec		1	1
2021			
Jan	1		1
Mar	2		2
Jul		1	1
Sep	1		1
2022			
Nov		1	1
2023			
Jun		1	1
Total	20	11	31