



21 August 2018

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 18/06/01093

File Number: ADF2018/144374

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 21 June 2018, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request for access under the FOI Act.

1 Scope of request

You have requested access to the following documents:

“The Venezuelan Association of Australia kindly requires information about Venezuelan nationals who have lodged visas between January 2016 and 30 April 2018. Specifically, we require the following information:

- 1. Number of applications lodged between January 2016 and 30 May 2018 for Subclass 600 Visitor Visas including the Sponsored Family, Frequent Traveller and Tourist streams. Please include visas lodged offshore and/or onshore where the main applicant has applied using his/her Venezuelan passport. Additionally, the number of these applications that were approved or refused for each stream.*
- 2. Number of applications for Subclass 600 Visitor Visas for the above streams that have been rejected or approved, from which the main applicant has an Australian relative living in Australia.*
- 3. Number of applications for Student Visas, which have been lodged offshore and/or onshore where the main applicant has applied using his/her Venezuelan passport.*

4. Number of these Subclass 500 visa applications that were approved or rejected, where the main applicant has opted for a Vocational Education and Training Sector course and/or Higher Education Sector course. Additionally, the number of these applications that were approved or refused for each stream.

5. Number of Subclass 200 Humanitarian Visas lodged onshore and/or offshore, including number of visa applications that were approved, rejected or that are still in progress.

We will appreciate if you can provide the information by these ranges of times:

Jan 2016 – Jan 2017

Jan 2017 – Jan 2018

Jan 2018 – May 2018”

On 6 July 2018 you agreed to revise the scope of part 5 of your request to the following documents:

For Venezuelan citizens, all data for all of visas under the entire Humanitarian Program (on and offshore). This includes:

- Number of visa applications (on shore and offshore)
- Number of visas Approved
- Number of visas Rejected
- Number of visas in progress

We will appreciate if you can provide the information by these ranges of times:

Jan 2016 - Jan 2017

Jan 2017 - Jan 2018

Jan 2018 - May 2018.

2 Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate records.

3 Relevant material

In reaching my decision I referred to the following:

- the terms of your request
- the documents relevant to the request
- the FOI Act
- Guidelines published by the Office of the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the FOI Guidelines) and
- advice from Departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the documents to which you sought access.

4 Documents in scope of request

In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the Department has used its computer system to produce two documents that contain information that falls within the scope of your request. The data produced in the documents existed in the possession of the Department on 21 June 2018 when your FOI request was received.

5 Decision

The decision in relation to the documents in the possession of the Department which fall within the scope of your request is as follows:

- Release two documents in full.

6 Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00251>. If you are unable to access the legislation through this website, please contact our office for a copy.

7 Your Review Rights

Internal Review

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of this decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe a review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days.

Applications for review should be sent to:

By email to: foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au

OR

By mail to:
Freedom of Information Section
Department of Home Affairs
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of this decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a request for a review to the OAIC, please see Fact Sheet 12 "Freedom of information – Your review rights", available online at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-reviews>.

8 Making a Complaint

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your request.

Your enquiries to the Australian Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which

it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify the Department of Home Affairs as the relevant agency.

9 Contacting the FOI Section

Should you wish to discuss this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Section at foi@homeaffairs.gov.au.

signed electronically



Authorised Decision Maker
Department of Home Affairs