



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Border Protection

# Countries that may be exempted from the requirement to interview

## Background

To support the Common Processing Guidelines, this document provides further guidance to Protection visa decision makers about which applicants may not require interview. Where an applicant's claims are not supported by country information, Protection visa decision makers may decide it is appropriate not to interview applicants from the countries listed in the two tables below.

These tables are as follows:

- Table 1: Signatories to relevant international treaties and conventions with strong record of adherence
- Table 2: Countries with significantly high refusal rates based on Protection visa application outcomes over a two year period. These outcomes relate to finally determined decisions made in two 12 month reference periods: Quarter 4 2013-14 to Quarter 3 2014-15 and Quarter 4 2014-15 to Quarter 3 2015-16.

## Table 1: Signatories to relevant international treaties and conventions with a strong record of adherence

For applicants from the countries listed in the table below, an interview is not required if an individual's claims are not supported by country information. These countries are signatories with a positive record of adherence to the Refugee Convention, the ICCPR and the CAT, and are considered generally safe and politically stable. Protection visa decision makers have the option of deciding applications from citizens of these countries without interview where an applicant is presenting claims that are not supported by country information.

This table will be updated on a six monthly basis with regard to updated country information.

Belgium	Canada	Cyprus	Denmark	Estonia
Finland	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy
Japan	Malta	Netherlands	New Zealand	Norway
South Korea	Sweden	Switzerland	United Kingdom	United States of America

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Table 2: Citizenships with low historic grant rates

A post-review refusal rate of 90 percent or greater for a particular country demonstrates that most people from that country do not have significant claims. It is, therefore, appropriate to provide Protection visa decision makers with the flexibility to decide whether, for applicants from these countries, an interview is required to explore claims or whether the application is one that can be decided based on country information and the content of their applications.

The table has been limited to include only citizenships with a finally determined grant rate of 10 per cent or less the preceding two years and only those citizenships where there has been a minimum of 50 finally determined decisions over the entire period. Relevant decisions used to determine grant rates and total decisions exclude withdrawn and invalid applications. A two year sample period will prevent this list being skewed by any anomalous or short term fluctuations in application numbers, grant rates or country information.

Citizenship	Finally determined grant rate		Finally determined decisions made
	Q4 2013-14 to Q3 2014-15	Q4 2014-15 to Q3 2015-16	
Malaysia	9.9%	1.9%	998
India	6.8%	6.2%	1160
Nepal	7.9%	10.3%	280
South Korea	4.9%	6.1%	114
Tonga	2.9%	3.3%	100

NOTE: Data up to end 2014-15 based on information extracted on 3 July 2015. Data for Quarter 3 2016 based on information extracted from DIBP systems as at 1 April 2016.

List 2 is updated on a quarterly basis and maintained by Humanitarian Programme Reporting and Analysis section (email [s.47E\(d\)](mailto:s.47E(d)@...)).



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## OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTION

### **Instruction 001: Process for assessing permanent protection applications in relation to particular countries**

1. Officers are not required to interview permanent protection applicants where protection is claimed from the following countries unless the exception at 3 applies:

- Malaysia
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Taiwan
- Thailand.

2.1 Officers are not required to interview permanent protection applicants where protection is claimed from the following countries, unless the exception at 2.2 or 3 applies:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Malta
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway

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- South Korea
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

2.2 An interview must be conducted to assess applications made by dependents who are citizens of one of the countries listed in paragraph 2.1 if their parents / spouse:

s. 47E(d)

3. In relation to protection claims raised in relation to countries listed in paragraphs 1 or 2.1, an interview must be conducted if:

- a. the allocation officer, the case officer, their manager or any other Departmental officer associated with the case believes that there are, or may be, circumstances that require further exploration; or

s. 47E(d)

4. It is open to a case officer to decide not to interview applicants raising protection claims in relation to the Peoples Republic of China s. 47E(d)

s. 47E(d)

s. 47E(d)

s. 47F(1)

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10/1/17

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**Permanent and Temporary Protection Visa Lodgement Cohort**

\*Permanent Protection (PV), Temporary Protection visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) only

4) Statistics for the numbers and percentage rates at which Protection visa applications made in each calendar year from 2010-present:

- (a) resulted in a grant of a Protection visa by the Department of Immigration at first instance;
- (b) resulted in a refusal to grant a Protection visa by the Department of Immigration which was not subsequently the subject of an application for review to the RRT or AAT;
- (c) resulted in a refusal to grant a Protection visa by the Department of Immigration which was subsequently the subject of an application for review to the RRT or AAT and then remitted to the Department;
- (d) resulted in a refusal to grant a Protection visa by the Department of Immigration which was subsequently the subject of an application for review to the RRT or AAT, in which the decision was affirmed by the RRT or AAT.
- (e) otherwise finalised
- (f) remain pending as at the date of this request.

\*\* (f) as at 6 June 2018 there are 33,361 applications onhand with the department

Notes:

This information is provided by the Department of Home Affairs. It was extracted from systems on 4 May 2018. As data has been drawn from a dynamic system environment, the information is correct at the time of publication and figures may differ slightly from previous or future reporting. The information in this email attachment has been verified and is provided for the purpose as stated in the original request.

2010 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)		(b)	(c)	(d)
Afghanistan	4357	1234	6	11	11
Bangladesh	102	21	0	55	20
China, Peoples Republic Of	1186	167	69	648	228
Fiji	546	20	79	321	70
India	410	9	73	256	26
Indonesia	193	12	31	125	7
Iran	1295	364	<5	19	68
Iraq	878	305	<5	<5	45
Lebanon	204	35	6	93	51
Malaysia	253	<5	26	200	7
Pakistan	487	238	11	79	96
Philippines	73	0	6	47	8
Somalia	18	5	0	<5	<5
Sri Lanka	1029	450	<5	47	63
Stateless Person	1014	233	0	<5	13
Sudan	6	<5	<5	0	<5
Taiwan	<5	0	0	<5	0
Thailand	30	<5	7	10	<5
Turkey	119	37	8	20	45
Vietnam	96	<5	9	58	<5
Other	1875	575	104	532	362
<b>Total</b>	<b>14173</b>	<b>3716</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>2531</b>	<b>1128</b>

2011 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)		(b)	(c)	(d)
Afghanistan	4103	2322	0	<5	14
Bangladesh	128	31	<5	74	10
China, Peoples Republic Of	1185	97	76	713	191
Fiji	277	50	25	132	51
India	708	8	74	377	38
Indonesia	178	7	20	127	<5
Iran	3465	1258	<5	18	90
Iraq	1087	599	<5	<5	29
Lebanon	150	14	8	66	40
Malaysia	180	5	27	99	6
Pakistan	879	337	15	115	196
Philippines	72	<5	6	55	<5
Somalia	23	9	5	<5	<5
Sri Lanka	771	284	8	64	39
Stateless Person	1477	759	<5	<5	11

Sudan	<5	<5	0	<5	0
Taiwan	6	0	<5	<5	<5
Thailand	17	0	0	12	<5
Turkey	89	24	<5	23	35
Vietnam	171	<5	19	49	5
<i>Other</i>	2370	673	121	743	446
<b>Total</b>	<b>17340</b>	<b>6484</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>2680</b>	<b>1215</b>

2012 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Afghanistan	4281	3158	8	109	868
Bangladesh	200	32	6	125	16
China, Peoples Republic Of	1153	80	72	723	155
Fiji	262	29	21	172	17
India	965	10	106	558	60
Indonesia	149	5	26	70	20
Iran	2876	2008	32	245	487
Iraq	928	605	32	40	167
Lebanon	338	37	10	202	59
Malaysia	176	16	21	98	8
Pakistan	1658	899	15	254	404
Philippines	58	<5	<5	45	0
Somalia	11	5	0	0	5
Sri Lanka	2327	362	45	1150	671
Stateless Person	940	764	7	17	116
Sudan	14	<5	0	0	7
Taiwan	7	0	<5	<5	0
Thailand	20	<5	<5	10	0
Turkey	113	40	5	30	27
Vietnam	81	19	5	33	8
<i>Other</i>	2397	904	88	750	343
<b>Total</b>	<b>18934</b>	<b>8980</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>4635</b>	<b>3438</b>

2013 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Afghanistan	383	250	13	12	82
Bangladesh	391	20	14	256	51
China, Peoples Republic Of	1557	105	69	1047	148
Fiji	421	17	52	266	39
India	1150	27	118	636	67
Indonesia	193	13	31	94	17
Iran	993	487	35	110	230
Iraq	370	227	15	12	62
Lebanon	359	35	17	183	57
Malaysia	208	11	28	110	22
Pakistan	1124	410	26	337	215
Philippines	63	<5	<5	44	<5
Somalia	28	17	0	<5	6
Sri Lanka	813	231	18	351	115
Stateless Person	360	258	5	18	36
Sudan	20	14	<5	0	<5
Taiwan	9	0	0	5	0
Thailand	23	0	<5	14	0
Turkey	109	39	11	21	19
Vietnam	132	5	10	70	19
<i>Other</i>	3110	947	229	1046	476
<b>Total</b>	<b>11816</b>	<b>3114</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>4633</b>	<b>1666</b>

2014 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Afghanistan	132	99	<5	<5	<5
Bangladesh	252	13	15	99	35

China, Peoples Republic Of	1498	91	137	782	105
Fiji	297	19	36	163	20
India	961	17	97	470	25
Indonesia	150	11	16	79	7
Iran	271	166	6	18	15
Iraq	430	345	10	14	27
Lebanon	260	42	11	116	23
Malaysia	706	12	130	390	29
Pakistan	834	229	34	190	87
Philippines	64	0	<5	36	<5
Somalia	14	5	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	176	18	14	55	9
Stateless Person	70	40	0	<5	0
Sudan	21	9	7	<5	0
Taiwan	33	0	9	14	<5
Thailand	35	0	5	9	<5
Turkey	142	45	5	15	7
Vietnam	265	<5	13	159	15
Other	2461	628	196	642	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>9072</b>	<b>1790</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>3261</b>	<b>566</b>

2015 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)		(b)	(c)	(d)
Afghanistan	573	385	9	77	27
Bangladesh	217	11	<5	35	<5
China, Peoples Republic Of	1330	35	117	144	11
Fiji	240	<5	37	57	<5
India	648	7	62	101	<5
Indonesia	216	5	35	35	0
Iran	880	495	6	115	63
Iraq	1073	664	28	69	22
Lebanon	158	11	14	22	<5
Malaysia	2788	12	618	1281	43
Pakistan	639	139	31	44	29
Philippines	70	<5	5	<5	<5
Somalia	13	7	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	817	168	15	328	48
Stateless Person	210	116	<5	15	6
Sudan	18	5	<5	<5	0
Taiwan	122	0	35	23	0
Thailand	110	<5	34	7	<5
Turkey	70	13	9	<5	<5
Vietnam	219	18	36	40	8
Other	1960	418	149	155	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>12371</b>	<b>2513</b>	<b>1247</b>	<b>2555</b>	<b>320</b>

2016 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)		(b)	(c)	(d)
Afghanistan	2555	1971	9	186	37
Bangladesh	439	21	7	89	<5
China, Peoples Republic Of	1714	37	113	31	<5
Fiji	391	6	83	16	0
India	1118	<5	75	68	<5
Indonesia	318	18	40	13	0
Iran	3016	1667	14	281	97
Iraq	1389	510	45	179	60

Lebanon	238	8	7	36	0
Malaysia	7215	5	1353	2156	62
Pakistan	1353	605	40	57	13
Philippines	96	<5	<5	<5	<5
Somalia	81	39	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	2673	613	22	1235	92
Stateless Person	727	393	5	19	18
Sudan	183	127	<5	7	0
Taiwan	201	<5	29	20	0
Thailand	206	<5	56	7	0
Turkey	163	19	10	<5	<5
Vietnam	776	45	156	114	8
Other	2331	306	139	78	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>27183</b>	<b>6398</b>	<b>2207</b>	<b>4595</b>	<b>414</b>

2017 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Afghanistan	1477	327	<5	22	7
Bangladesh	461	10	<5	10	0
China, Peoples Republic Of	6592	11	270	36	<5
Fiji	259	0	20	8	0
India	1296	<5	34	18	0
Indonesia	516	19	69	<5	<5
Iran	5111	868	11	80	15
Iraq	855	149	25	24	<5
Lebanon	380	<5	<5	10	<5
Malaysia	7953	<5	1340	403	8
Pakistan	1406	171	28	9	0
Philippines	188	0	<5	0	0
Somalia	226	52	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	2187	146	19	271	<5
Stateless Person	1910	392	6	11	<5
Sudan	287	88	<5	<5	<5
Taiwan	254	<5	21	10	0
Thailand	304	0	39	<5	0
Turkey	237	<5	5	0	0
Vietnam	1268	19	192	74	<5
Other	2632	137	82	33	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>35799</b>	<b>2403</b>	<b>2175</b>	<b>1027</b>	<b>55</b>

2018 Lodgement year	Lodgements	Primary Grant	Primary Refused no review	Review Affirmed	Review remit
	4 (a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
Afghanistan	86	<5	0	0	0
Bangladesh	109	0	0	0	0
China Peoples Republic Of	3516	0	15	<5	0
Fiji	179	0	9	<5	0
India	673	0	<5	0	0
Indonesia	243	<5	21	0	0
Iran	152	<5	0	0	0
Iraq	91	<5	0	0	0
Lebanon	62	<5	0	0	0
Malaysia	4480	<5	297	<5	0
Pakistan	247	0	<5	<5	<5
Philippines	102	0	0	0	0
Somalia	9	0	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	102	<5	<5	0	0
Stateless Person	21	<5	0	0	0
Sudan	15	0	0	0	0
Taiwan	146	0	7	0	0
Thailand	506	<5	20	0	0
Turkey	108	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	294	0	28	<5	0
Other	1261	0	30	<5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12402</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>