



## Response to Freedom of Information request: FA20/11/00419

The number of Partner (subclasses 309/100) visa applications currently pending with the Dubai post ordered by date of lodgement;

Reporting for the requested information is available as at 30 October 2020, and is provided in the table below.

Partner (subclass 309) visa applications on hand at the Australian Consulate-General in Dubai by year of lodgement as at 30 October 2020

Lodgement Year	Subclass 309 applications on hand at Dubai office as at 30/10/2020
2003-04	<5
2004-05	<5
2007-08	8
2008-09	<5
2009-10	13
2010-11	10
2011-12	11
2012-13	150
2013-14	1197
2014-15	787
2015-16	207
2016-17	553
2017-18	1498
2018-19	1303
2019-20	829
2020-21	215
<b>Total subclass 309 applications on hand as at 30/10/2020</b>	<b>6784</b>

Note: Where applicable, as per current privacy guidelines, the Department of Home Affairs policy is to mask numbers which are less than five as "<5".

- From 2010 onwards, the average number of days between lodgement of a Partner (subclasses 309/100) visa application and a decision on that application by the Dubai post

The Department's standard reporting methodology for processing times is percentile based. The processing times at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for first stage Partner (subclass 309) visa applications finalised at the Australian Consulate-General in Dubai between 2010-11 and 2019-20 were as follows:

Financial Year	Partner (subclass 309) processing time - 75th Percentile
2010-11	18 Months
2011-12	15 Months
2012-13	15 Months
2013-14	20 Months
2014-15	18 Months
2015-16	16 Months
2016-17	13 Months
2017-18	12 Months
2018-19	18 Months
2019-20	20 Months

**-In the 2019-2020 program year, the number of requests for priority consideration under Ministerial Direction 80 made in respect of Partner (subclasses 309/100) visa applications to the Dubai post - and, over the same period: o The number of such requests approved; and o The number of such requests refused.**

The Department does not maintain reporting on the total number of requests, or the number of requests approved or refused, to depart from the priority order for considering Family stream applications that is set out in Ministerial Direction 80. These requests are managed and recorded at the individual application level and cannot be aggregated by Departmental systems for consolidated reporting purposes.

**-The number of Department staff processing Partner (subclasses 309/100) visa application before the COVID-19 pandemic hit and staff returned to Australia and/or were not working in the post and after the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Offshore posts, including Dubai post, are responsible for processing a number of visa types and resources are flexibly allocated to manage demand and onhand levels for all visa types processed.

Visa operations at a number of Departmental offices overseas, including the Dubai office, have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of local pandemic restrictions and impacts. However, for the reasons noted above, the Department is not able to provide definitive staff levels undertaking Partner visa processing at Dubai or other overseas posts at any given time.