



Freedom of Information Request

FA 21/06/01430

Question:

*Similar but slightly different to FA 21/02/00413, may I please request:
Since travel restrictions began (1 Feb 2020 - 31 May 2021) For inbound exemptions:*

*1. Number of applications (total, each new application by an individual is counted)
By nationality, by exemption category:*

1.1 Applications for travel exemptions approved

1.2 Applications rejected

2. Number of applicants (exemption status of the individual) By nationality only:

2.1 Approved for travel after any number of applications

2.2 To date, denied travel exemption, after any number of applications

It would be greatly appreciated if care was taken to ensure a PDF disclosure had selectable text for copying. To aid in extraction of the data.

Answer:

1. See Table 1.
2. The Travel Exemption Portal and all reporting on the travel exemptions program are based on the number of requests, and not individuals.

It is not possible to provide reporting on the number of individuals without extracting and manually manipulating data from the system, which would not be reliable or accurate and would constitute an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Table 1: Travel exemption requests¹ approved and refused between 1 August 2020² and 31 May 2021, top 10 passport countries³ by discretionary category⁴

Passport Country	Discretionary Category	Requests Approved	Requests Refused
India	Compassionate And Compelling	860	21,061
	Critical Skills	2,274	8,113
	Critical Skills – Medical	104	53
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	5	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	5	90
	Total India	3,248	s 11C(1)(a)
United Kingdom	Compassionate And Compelling	833	4,328
	Critical Skills	3,112	1,853
	Critical Skills – Medical	285	12
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	159	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	5	8
	Total United Kingdom	4,394	s 11C(1)(a)
United States	Compassionate And Compelling	512	3,930
	Critical Skills	2,868	866
	Critical Skills – Medical	29	8
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	504	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	10	9
	Total United States	3,923	s 11C(1)(a)
China	Compassionate And Compelling	857	4,712
	Critical Skills	978	822
	Critical Skills – Medical	10	7
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	7	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	<5	11
	Total China	s 11C(1)(a)	s 11C(1)(a)

¹ An individual may submit more than one request

² Processing of travel exemption requests moved to the Travel Exemptions Portal on 1 August 2020. The data above cannot be disaggregated prior to this date

³ The Travel Exemption Portal captures passport country but not nationality

⁴ Data excludes persons found to meet an already exempt category, requests that did not contain sufficient information for consideration by a decision maker and withdrawn requests.

Table 1 (continued): Travel exemption requests¹ approved and refused between 1 August 2020² and 31 May 2021, top 10 passport countries³ by discretionary category⁴

Passport Country	Discretionary Category	Requests Approved	Requests Refused
Pakistan	Compassionate And Compelling	121	3,908
	Critical Skills	123	1,404
	Critical Skills – Medical	7	<5
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	12	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	<5	30
	Total Pakistan	s 11C(1)(a)	5,345
Nepal	Compassionate And Compelling	97	3,123
	Critical Skills	141	1,637
	Critical Skills – Medical	<5	8
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	<5	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	<5	18
	Total Nepal	242	s 11C(1)(a)
Singapore	Compassionate And Compelling	329	3,506
	Critical Skills	309	337
	Critical Skills – Medical	29	11
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	<5	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	<5	6
	Total Singapore	670	s 11C(1)(a)
South Africa	Compassionate And Compelling	197	1,034
	Critical Skills	1,320	1,518
	Critical Skills – Medical	23	5
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	6	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	<5	<5
	Total South Africa	s 11C(1)(a)	2,559

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Table 1 (continued): Travel exemption requests¹ approved and refused between 1 August 2020² and 31 May 2021, top 10 passport countries³ by discretionary category⁴

Passport Country	Discretionary Category	Requests Approved	Requests Refused
Philippines	Compassionate And Compelling	233	1,983
	Critical Skills	926	895
	Critical Skills – Medical	29	8
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	7	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	<5	<5
	Total Philippines	s 11C(1)(a)	2,889
Canada	Compassionate And Compelling	240	2,541
	Critical Skills	734	334
	Critical Skills – Medical	24	11
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	14	<5
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	<5	<5
	Total Canada	s 11C(1)(a)	2,888
Others	Compassionate And Compelling	3,666	26,563
	Critical Skills	11,471	7,779
	Critical Skills – Medical	518	36
	National Interest / Australian Government Invitation	1,241	15
	Urgent Medical Treatment / Evacuation	505	182
	Total Other / Not Recorded	17,401	34,575

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