



Freedom of Information Requests FA 21/08/00244 and FA 21/08/00275

FA 21/08/00244:

- 1) Documents that show many inbound exemption requests the department has received from applicants seeking to travel for compassionate and compelling reasons between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021? Including:
 - a) The total number of requests made
 - b) The total number of unique applicants.
- 2) Documents that show how many inbound exemption requests from applicants seeking to travel for compassionate and compelling reasons have been approved between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021?
- 3) Documents that show how many temporary visa holders have requested to enter Australia under the immediate family member exemption between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021. Including:
 - a) The total number of requests made
 - b) The total number of unique applicants.
- 4) Documents that show how many temporary visa holders have been approved to enter Australia under the immediate family member exemption between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021.

Response:

- 1)
 - a) From 1 August 2020¹ to 31 July 2021, 121,870 inbound compassionate and compelling requests were received.²
 - b) It is not possible to report on unique applicants rather than requests.³
- 2) Between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021, 12,532 inbound travel exemption requests were approved on compassionate and compelling grounds.
- 3)
 - a) From 1 August 2020⁴ to 31 July 2021, 64,423 inbound immediate family requests were received.⁵
 - b) It is not possible to report on unique applicants rather than requests.⁶
- 4) From 1 August 2020⁷ to 31 July 2021, 17,741 inbound travel exemption requests were found to be exempt, as the immediate family members of an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

¹ It is not possible to determine which of these were requested on Compassionate and Compelling grounds prior to 1 August 2020 when processing moved to the Travel Exemption Portal.

² Enquiry type may be changed during processing to ensure full consideration of an individual's circumstances.

³ An individual may have submitted multiple requests, and requests prior to 1 August 2020 may include more than one person.

⁴ It is not possible to determine which of these were requesting recognition as the immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident prior to 1 August 2020 when processing moved to the Travel Exemption Portal.

⁵ Enquiry type may be changed during processing to ensure full consideration of an individual's circumstances.

⁶ An individual may have submitted multiple requests, and requests prior to 1 August 2020 may include more than one person.

⁷ It is not possible to determine which of these were found to be the immediate family member of an Australian citizen or permanent resident prior to 1 August 2020 when processing moved to the Travel Exemption Portal.

FA 21/08/00275:

- 1) Documents showing the number of outbound travel applications made for travel on compelling or compassionate grounds between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021. Including:
 - a) The total number of requests made
 - b) The total number of unique applicants.
- 2) Documents showing the number of outbound travel applications made for travel under compelling reasons for longer than three months between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021:
 - a) The total number of requests made
 - b) The total number of unique applicants.
- 3) Documents showing the number of outbound travel applications approved for travel on compelling or compassionate grounds between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021.
- 4) Documents showing the number of outbound travel applications approved for travel under compelling reasons for longer than three months between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2021.

Response:

- 1)
 - a) From 1 August 2020⁸ to 31 July 2021, 87,216 outbound requests were received for compassionate and compelling grounds.⁹
 - b) It is not possible to report on unique applicants rather than requests.¹⁰
- 2)
 - a) From 1 August 2020¹¹ to 31 July 2021, 106,511 outbound requests were received for travelling overseas for a compelling reason for at least three months.¹²
 - b) It is not possible to report on unique applicants rather than requests.¹³
- 3) Between 25 March 2020¹⁴ and 31 July 2021, 48,039 outbound travel exemption requests were approved on compassionate and compelling grounds.
- 4) Between 25 March 2020¹⁵ and 31 July 2021, 95,996 outbound travel exemption requests were approved on for travelling overseas for a compelling reason for at least three months.

⁸ It is not possible to determine which of these were requested on Compassionate and Compelling grounds prior to 1 August 2020 when processing moved to the Travel Exemption Portal.

⁹ Enquiry type may be changed during processing to ensure full consideration of an individual's circumstances.

¹⁰ An individual may have submitted multiple requests, and requests prior to 1 August 2020 may include more than one person.

¹¹ It is not possible to determine which of these were requested on Compassionate and Compelling grounds prior to 1 August 2020 when processing moved to the Travel Exemption Portal.

¹² Enquiry type may be changed during processing to ensure full consideration of an individual's circumstances.

¹³ An individual may have submitted multiple requests, and requests prior to 1 August 2020 may include more than one person.

¹⁴ Outbound travel restrictions were introduced from 25 March 2020

¹⁵ Outbound travel restrictions were introduced from 25 March 2020. Prior to 30 September 2020, this category was included within "Urgent and unavoidable personal business".