



FOI request FA 21/08/00461

1. the number of active cases currently on-hand in the Visa Applicant Character Consideration Unit (VACCU)

As at 13 August 2021, the VACCU had 2026 active cases on hand.

2. the number of staff processing VACCU cases

As at 13 August 2021, 30 full time equivalent staff are processing VACCU cases.

3. the average number of days taken to finalise a VACCU case

s501 decisions for financial year 2020-21	
	Average days to decisions
Not Pass, Refused	655 days
Not pass, Not Refused, Warned	411 days
Administratively Finalised (VAPA-Not Refused)	480 days

4. the median number of days taken to finalise a VACCU case

s501 decisions for financial year 2020-21	
	Median days to a decision
Not Pass, Refused	638.5 days
Not pass, Not Refused, Warned	337 days
Administratively Finalised (VAPA-Not Refused)	412 days

It is noted that the above figures for Question 3 and 4 are a statistical average and that processing times vary considerably and are influenced by factors such as:

- requests for further documentation from external sources and the applicant;
- requests from the applicant for further time to provide additional information;
- Natural Justice timeframes; and
- timeframes associated with administrative or judicial review or seeking advice on complex cases; and
- the applicant's location, noting that applicants in held detention are given priority.
- an applicant's term of imprisonment (average processing time is not an accurate reflection of processing efficiency given that prisoners serving lengthy sentences are given lower priority).

Caveats:

- Figures were extracted from Departmental systems on 3 August 2021. As data has been drawn from a live systems environment the figures provided may differ slightly in previous or future reporting.
- The above figures include all s501 decisions and are not specific to VACCU cases.