



19 December 2023

CHARITIES SERVICES
45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011
PO Box 12318, Thorndon, Wellington
6011, New Zealand
Freephone 0508242748
www.charities.govt.nz
dia.govt.nz

Henry via fyi-request-24949

Sent via email to:

fyi-request-24949-abb7340@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Henry

Official Information Act 1982 Request – OIA 2324-0377

Thank you for your request for information about the application processing times for Charities Services that was received by the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) on the 29 November 2023.

You have requested the following:

- *1. The number of application for charitable status received within the last 36 months;*
- *2. The typical (average) time taken by the Board to assess those applications, the maximum time; and least time taken for each of (a) those that applied; (b) those that were approved; and (c) those that were rejected. Please also provide the number of application still outstanding, and the average time since the application was received.*

In response to your request, I can provide you with the following information.

Te Rātā Atawhai, the Charities Registration Board, is an independent three-person body which makes decisions about registering or deregistering charities.

In practice, most decisions are made by Charities Services acting under formal delegation and guidance from the Board. However, the Board always deals with more complex or novel cases and those where organisations disagree with Charities Services' decisions. Charities Services has therefore provided all applications approved, declined, and withdrawn under the delegation from the Board.

Processing times vary greatly depending on complexity of the application however during the past 36 months the average working days to completion was 27.3 days. Please note that the working days are paused whenever Charities Services has requested information from an entity and is awaiting a response.

- Between 1 Nov 2020 and 30 Nov 2023 Charities Services received a total of **4510** complete applications.
- The average working days to completion was **27.3** days.

- **3915** applications were approved.
- **592** applications were withdrawn either by the entity or withdrawn by Charities Services under section 18(3A) of the Charities Act 2005.
- **3** applications were declined by the Charities Registration Board – The Self-Sovereignty Faith, New Zealand Entrepreneurs Rescue (NZER) and Enhanced Future Charitable Trust. These decisions can be viewed on our website here: <https://www.charities.govt.nz/charities-in-new-zealand/legal-decisions/view-the-decisions/>.
- The longest application time for registration that was approved in the last 36 months was 368 days (due to application being placed on hold awaiting a High Court decision).
- The least time for registration for an application that was approved was on the same day of application (due to a Team Leader approved fast tracking of the application for exceptional circumstances).
- The longest application time for registration for an application that was withdrawn was 291 days.
- The shortest application time for registration for an application that was withdrawn was on the same day.
- The longest application time for registration for an application that was declined by the Charities Registration Board was 287 days.
- The shortest application time for registration for an application that was declined by the Charities Registration Board was 73 days.
- As at 1 December 2023, 289 applications were in progress and 193 applications yet to be assigned. The average time since the application was received was 43 working days.

The details of Charities that have been registered in this period is publicly available on the advanced find of the Charities Register (<https://register.charities.govt.nz/CharitiesRegister/Search>) or through our data visualisation here: <https://register.charities.govt.nz/PowerBI>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my decisions about your request by the Ombudsman pursuant to section 28(1) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington or by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Penelope Cox
Manager Regulatory
Charities Services