



**KEY BRIEF
Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2023**

Topic: Removals
Group: National Operations
Division: Detention and National removals

Removal Statistics

Financial year	2020 - 2021	2021 – 2022	Variance	1 July 2021 – 31 March 2022	1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023	Variance
Total Removals	1039	1253	20.6%	814	1582	94.35%↑
S501 Removals	452	508	12.4%	333	342	2.7%↑

* Removed to their country of origin or a third country.

NZ Citizen Removals

NZ Citizens	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23 (as at 31 March 2023)
Airport Turnaround	156	28	49	150↑
S501 Visa Cancellation	218	312	225	171↓
Detained from Prison*	318	299	298	199↓
Prison to Plane Removal	104	15	25	44↑
Removed	369	398	289	278↓
In Held Detention**	436	406	383	300↓

* includes prison to plane removals

** Breakdown of inflows of New Zealand citizens into held detention facilities by financial year



Number of individuals removed by citizenship (at time of removal)

Citizenship at Departure	FY 2020/21	FY2021/22	01 July – 31 March 2023
New Zealand	398	289	278
Vietnam	121	114	137
United Kingdom	42	98	82
India	26	84	147
Malaysia	73	67	58
Other	379	601	880
TOTAL	1039	1253	1582

**Removed to their country of origin or a third country.*

Note: Citizenship at Departure is based on the top 5 citizenships in 2021-22.

Nature of removal for all individuals removed from immigration detention

Removals	FY 2020/21	FY2021/22	01 July – 31 March 2023
Voluntary	1007 (97%)	1182 (94%)	1524 (96%)
Involuntary	32 (3%)	71 (6%)	58 (4%)
TOTAL	1039	1253	1582

**number of removals (nature of removal) removed to their country of origin or a third country*

Prison to Plane Removals

Estimated total Prison to Plane removals			
(as a percentage of total removals from Australia)			
Financial year	FY2020/21	FY 2021/22	01 July to 31 March 2023
Total removals	105 (11% of all removals)	125 (12% of all removals)	159 (22% of all removals)

**Figures include removals directly from prison to plane and removals within 72 hours of release from prison.*

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Removal Operations on Chartered Aircraft

- The ABF has utilised chartered aircraft where removals are highly complex and commercial flights are not viable.
- For the period 1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023, the ABF conducted removal operations via chartered aircraft to Vietnam, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, New Zealand, Nigeria, Samoa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Finland and Indonesia. A total of 105 individuals were removed from immigration detention as a result of these operations.

Consultation

- The Chief Statistician has cleared the statistics contained within this brief.

Additional References

- SB23-000241 - Removal Operations (Back Pocket Brief)

Cleared through:	Sandra Jeffery, Assistant Commissioner Detention and National Removals Division 12 April 2023
Final clearance:	Tim Fitzgerald
Position:	Deputy Commissioner National Operations
Date:	21 April 2023

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