



31 March 2020

Erin Zheng
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File No: DOIA 1920 - 1420

Dear Erin Zheng

Thank you for your email of 17 March 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

- 1. What is the lodgement time for the oldest SMC application in the backlog which is still waiting for allocation to a case officer?*
- 2. Does INZ start to allocate applications from the general queue (that do not meet the priority criteria) after 24th Feb 2020? If so, what is the proportion for the NON-priority SMC applications of the total applications which was allocated to a case officer during this month?*
- 3. Will any priority applications submitted after 24 Feb 2020 will be processed before all the other non priority applications? Is there any plan for split case officers for two queues? For example let's say 75% of COs will processing for priority applications and the other 25% will process non-priority applications. If not how will non-priority applications be processed as there will always have new priority applications?*

Our response

- 1. What is the lodgement time for the oldest SMC application in the backlog which is still waiting for allocation to a case officer?***

As of 5 March 2020, the oldest unallocated application in the Skilled Migrant and Residence from Work queue was accepted on 12 December 2018.

- 2. Does INZ start to allocate applications from the general queue (that do not meet the priority criteria) after 24th Feb 2020? If so, what is the proportion for the NON-priority SMC applications of the total applications which was allocated to a case officer during this month?***

As at 5 March 2020, 9 applications have been allocated from the general queue from the period of 25 February to 4 March 2020.

- 3. Will any priority applications submitted after 24 Feb 2020 will be processed before all the other non priority applications? Is there any plan for split case officers for two queues? For example let's say 75% of COs will processing for priority applications and the other 25% will process non-priority applications. If not how will non-priority applications be processed as there will always have new priority applications?**

The New Zealand Residence Program (NZRP) Planning Range sets the upper and lower number for residence visa approvals. The last NZRP ran from 1 July 2018 until 31 December 2019 and included a Planning Range of 50,000 to 60,000 residence approvals.

Whilst the government is currently reviewing its approach to the NZRP, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will continue to process applications at the same rate as the previous NZRP allowed for.

As at 24 February 2020, INZ changed the prioritisation criteria for Skilled Migrant and Residence from Work Category visa applications. Further information can be found here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-prioritisation-information-for-applicants>.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Ileini Taloa, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at ileini.taloa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Hogg

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