



Azaria Bialik

fyi-request-13391-50a842ff@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-0219

Dear Azaria,

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) on 25 July 2020. You asked:

- 1) *"Based on your records could you provide the number of applicants that are known to pass away while waiting for their EOI to be selected from the pool?"*
- 2) *"According to the INZ website Parent Resident Visa selections of EOI were suspended due to COVID-19. Would it be possible to elaborate on how the pandemic is effecting the ability to select and assess EOI applications?"*
- 3) *"Is there a clear criteria for when EOI selection from the pool can start for this category?"*
- 4) *"Is there an intention to meet the 1000 quota stated for this visa for the year 2020?"*

**Our response**

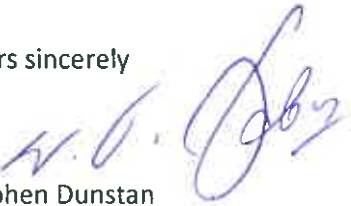
1. Immigration New Zealand (INZ) usually receives notification that a person who submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) is deceased when a withdrawal of the EOI is requested for that reason. INZ records indicate 38 clients are recorded in INZ systems as deceased in the last 12 months. When the withdrawal of an EOI is requested, reasons are not always given, so if INZ is not advised that the person has died its systems will not necessarily be updated.
2. On 1 April 2020, the Minister of Immigration made the decision to defer certain scheme opening dates and Expression of Interest (EOI) selections. This included deferring the Parent Category EOI selection scheduled for late May, until further notice. The decision was made due to the difficulty in obtaining the required documents and evidence to submit a residence application if the EOI is selected and Immigration New Zealand's (INZ) limited visa processing capacity during the COVID-19 outbreak. Many potential applicants are also based offshore and would be subject to New Zealand's current border restrictions.
3. The first EOI selection under the Parent Category continues to be deferred and a decision has not yet been made on when the EOI selection will resume. INZ acknowledges that there is a lot of interest in these EOI selections and that the deferral of selections will be disappointing for a number of EOI submitters. The deferral is a temporary measure and the Ministry is working on this. Any changes made by INZ in this regard will be announced on the INZ website: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

4. The number of resident visas that can be granted for each year ending 30 June is limited to 1,000 people. Whether this limit is reached will depend on the timing of any potential resumption of EOI draws and subsequent applications.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

If you wish to discuss this response, please email [INZOfficialCorrespondence@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:INZOfficialCorrespondence@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



rv Stephen Dunstan

General Manager - Enablement

Immigration New Zealand

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment