



18 SEP 2020

Arun Thakur

fyi-request-13539-f2f22407@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021 - 0376

Dear Arun Thakur

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

I am an NZ Resident and would like to request information related to Skilled Residency application as per below:-

- 1. Can you please provide me data of allocation of Skilled Residence application for priority and non-priority queue from 27 July 2020 to the date this request will be answered? Please provide information on a weekly basis.*
- 2. What is the total number of non-priority skilled residence application still waiting for allocation to CO between 3rd Jan 2019 to 5th Feb 2019(Both dates inclusive)?*
- 3. What is the current backlog of priority and non-priority skilled residence application as on the date this request will be answered? Please also provide the date of oldest application waiting on CO in both queues.*
- 4. How many applications from non-priority Skilled residency queue has been escalated under EVE (Employment Visa Escalation) process from 18 May 2020 to the date this request will be answered.*
- 5. How many priority applications do immigration New Zealand received in the month of May 2020, June 2020, July 2020, Aug 2020 and Sep 2020 (If applicable)? Out of these applications, please provide data for how many of these applications already assigned to CO as on date this request been answered. Please provide data in a monthly format for this request as per below table.*

Month "Total priority application lodged at INZ" "Priority Applications already assigned with a CO"

May 2020

June 2020

July 2020



August 2020
September 2020(if Applicable)

Our response

Please note that the skilled residence applications processed in Immigration New Zealand (INZ)'s Manukau office are made up of Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Residence from Work (RFW) applications. They are not split into two separate queues based on the application category. Once an application is accepted for processing it is then identified as to whether it meets the prioritisation criteria, or not, and triaged into either the priority or non-priority queue. Therefore the below data contains both SMC and RFW categories.

Please note that the below non-priority application-related data is for applications for people in New Zealand only. Non-priority applications for applicants who are outside of New Zealand are currently on hold. This is because people who are not New Zealand citizens or residents are unlikely to travel to New Zealand while our border is closed. INZ is not able to legally grant a visa to people who are unlikely to meet the entry requirements.

Question 1

*Can you please provide me data of allocation of Skilled Residence application for priority and non-priority queue from 27 July 2020 to the date this request will be answered?
Please provide information on a weekly basis.*

Please refer to the table below. Allocation occurs weekly and the data is for the week beginning the date quoted.

Week beginning	Priority applications	Non-priority applications
27 July 2020	147	50
03 August 2020	154	48
10 August 2020	168	37
17 August 2020	165	4
24 August 2020	116	149
31 August 2020	19	115
7 September 2020	45	177

Question 2

What is the total number of non-priority skilled residence application still waiting for allocation to CO between 3rd Jan 2019 to 5th Feb 2019(Both dates inclusive)?

As of 1 September 2020, there are 61 applications that were lodged between 03 January 2019 and 05 February 2019 (inclusive) waiting for allocation in the non-priority queue. As

allocations are completed weekly, these applications were allocated by 7 September 2020 (please refer to my response to question 3).

Questions 3

What is the current backlog of priority and non-priority skilled residence application as on the date this request will be answered? Please also provide the date of oldest application waiting on CO in both queues.

As of 7 September 2020 there are 66 skilled residence applications in the priority queue and 12,767 skilled residence applications in the non-priority queue.

As of 7 September 2020, the lodgement date for the oldest skilled residence application in the priority queue is 7 August 2020. The lodgement date for the oldest skilled residence application in the non- priority queue is 15 February 2019.

Questions 4

How many applications from non-priority Skilled residency queue has been escalated under EVE (Employment Visa Escalation) process from 18 May 2020 to the date this request will be answered.

Please refer to the below table for the number of non-priority applications allocated following the approval of an EVE request.

Month request made	Non Priority application allocated
18 May- 30 May 2020	18
June 2020	38
July 2020	13
August 2020	25

All EVE requests are manually recorded in a spreadsheet based on the date the request was received, on a monthly basis. Once the escalation is approved, the application will be included in the next weekly allocation.

Please be advised that the information was manually collated from reviewing each applicant's electronic notes in INZ's Application Management System (AMS).

Questions 5

5.1 How many priority applications do immigration New Zealand received in the month of May 2020, June 2020, July 2020, Aug 2020 and Sep 2020 (If applicable)?

We do not record in a reportable format the number of priority Skilled Residence applications received by INZ. I am advised that providing the requested information requires substantial collation. It needs manual research of over 17,000 applications to

determine how many priority applications INZ received in the months from May to September 2020.

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. The information requested is held on a large number of individual files. To provide you with the information would require staff to manually review and analyse each application. It would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

5.2 Out of these applications, please provide data for how many of these applications already assigned to CO as on date this request been answered. Please provide data in a monthly format for this request as per below table.

Month "Total priority application lodged at INZ" "Priority Applications already assigned with a CO"

May 2020

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020(if Applicable)

Please refer to the table below. Allocation statistics are not recorded on a monthly basis because allocation occurs weekly and the data is for the week beginning the date quoted. Please note that prior to May 2020 INZ did not record the split of priority and non-priority applications, therefore data is only available from 18 May 2020.

Week beginning	Priority applications
18 May 2020	264
25 May 2020	0*
01 June 2020	35
08 June 2020	40
15 June 2020	89
22 June 2020	228
29 June 2020	228
06 July 2020	85
13 July 2020	130
20 July 2020	129
27 July 2020	147
03 August 2020	154
10 August 2020	168
17 August 2020	165
24 August 2020	116
31 August 2020	19

7 September 2020	45
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**only re-allocation occurred, no applications were allocated from queues. Re-allocation occurs when an application that had been allocated needs to be re-assigned to another immigration officer due to staff movement.*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Dongrui Pang, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Dongrui.Pang@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Steve McGill

General Manager – Strategy, Engagement & Education
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

