



24 SEP 2020

Ranjit Singh Toor

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Ref: DOIA 2021-0481

Dear Mr Toor

Thank you for your email of 1 September 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

1. Please provide weekly number of allocated applications as you answered to my previous request Ref: DOIA 2021 -0135
2. Number of applications that are currently held in the non-priority queue by Immigration New Zealand under the SMC?
3. Also from this how many applications are held that the date of lodgement falls on or before the 24th May 2019.
4. Again from this number of non-priority cases lodged on or before the 24th May 2019, how many of these applications are noted as onshore applications?
5. What is the oldest date of lodged application within the non-priority queue?
6. Please provide number of decisions made/applications completed across SMC residence priority and non-priority queue work stream.

Our response

Question 1

Please provide weekly number of allocated applications as you answered to my previous request Ref: DOIA 2021 -0135.

Our response to your last request dated 12 August 2020 was for allocation of applications up to the week beginning 27 July 2020. The weekly allocation data since this date is below:

Week beginning	Total	Priority Queue	Non Priority Queue	Approved EVE*
3-Aug-2020	204	154	48	2
10-Aug-2020	209	168	37	3
17-Aug-2020	172	165	4	3
24-Aug-2020	266	116	149	1
31-Aug-2020	131	19	115	7
7-Sep-2020	225	45	177	3

*Requests approved via the Employment Visa Escalation process

Question 2

Number of applications that are currently held in the non-priority queue by Immigration New Zealand under the SMC?

As you were previously advised in our last response dated 12 August 2020, the queue of skilled residence applications includes the Skilled Migrant category (SMC) and the Residence from Work (RFW)

category. They are not split into two separate queues based on the application category. As such any data provided is for skilled residence.

The total number of skilled residence applications in the non priority queue as at 7 September 2020 was 14,315.

Questions 3 and 4

Also from this how many applications are held that the date of lodgement falls on or before the 24th May 2019.

Again from this number of non-priority cases lodged on or before the 24th May 2019, how many of these applications are noted as onshore applications?

As of 10 September 2020, a total of 1,563 skilled residence applications in the non-priority queue were lodged on or before 24 May 2019. Of this, 1,207 applications are for applicants onshore.

Question 5

What is the oldest date of lodged application within the non-priority queue?

As at 7 September 2020, the oldest application in the non-priority queue was lodged on 15 February 2019.

Question 6

Please provide number of decisions made/applications completed across SMC residence priority and non-priority queue work stream

This question is being refused under s18(f) of the OIA as to make the information available would entail substantial collation or research. The information is not in reportable format.

In accordance with s18A of the OIA, I have considered whether fixing a charge under s15 or extending the time limit under s15(a) would enable the request to be granted but it is my view it would not.

In accordance with s18B of the OIA, I have considered whether consulting with you would remove the reason for refusal, however, in my view it would not as to obtain the specific information would involve the manual search of the electronic records of all skilled residence applications decided.

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 freephone 0800 802 602.

I trust you find the information helpful.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact Penny Hazlett, Senior Business Advisor penny.hazlett@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Steve McGill
General Manager – Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment