



19 OCT 2020

Japjeet Baath

fyi-request-13744-d3ad5b21@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-0573

Dear Mr Baath,

Thank you for your email of 9 September 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

- *I need information regarding total pending Skilled migrant category (SMC) applications Between 15 February 2019 to 8 July 2019 which is waiting for allocation to Case officer.*

Response

As a matter of background, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not have a specific Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) queue but one for skilled residence applications and includes SMC and Resident from Work (RFW). The applications are not split into two separate queues based on the application category but are separated into the stated priorities as per Immigration Instructions A16.

The allocation of applications to immigration officers occurs weekly, and the number of applications that are allocated is dependent upon processing capacity. The Government is currently reviewing its approach to the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP), and is considering replacing the existing planning range with a more targeted approach that focuses on management of specific residence visa types. In the meantime, INZ will continue to process applications at the same volume and with the same level of resourcing as the previous NZRP allowed for, which does have an impact on the number of applications that can be allocated, and the timeliness of application processing.

As at 30 September 2020, there were 2,156 unallocated SMC applications received between 15 February 2019 and 8 July 2019. Of this 1,774 were for applicants who are onshore. Please note that as 12 October 2020 the oldest onshore application in the non-priority queue was lodged on 25 March 2019.

Any updates in regards to the allocation of applications can be found at the following link www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-timeframe-information.

I trust you find this information helpful.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Fraser Stretton at fraser.stretton@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Hogg
General Manager Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment