

Hon Kris Faafoi



MP for Mana

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications
and Digital Media

Minister for Government Digital Services

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Minister of Immigration

Associate Minister of Housing (Public Housing)

02 NOV 2020

MPOL 901

Paul Jacques-Mignault
fyi-request-13969-90395f5d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Paul

Thank you for your email of 13 October 2020, enquiring about the deferral of Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the Skilled Migrant Category.

I am aware that the current situation is impacting people in many ways and has created a range of visa-related issues.

During the COVID-19 response in April 2020, the Minister of Immigration, on the advice of Immigration New Zealand (INZ), agreed to defer EOI selections for some residence programmes, including Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) which normally take place fortnightly, until further notice.

After assessing the current situation, the government has decided to continue deferring the EOI selection for the SMC and Parent Resident Category for a further 6 months. This is a temporary measure and will be reviewed by the end of March 2021. The continued deferral will allow Immigration New Zealand to focus available resources on processing applications on hand and other urgent COVID-related cases.

Any changes made by INZ in this regard will be announced on the INZ website here:
www.immigration.govt.nz

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Faafoi', written over a faint blue circular stamp.

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Immigration