



04 NOV 2020

Wilson Pinto

fyi-request-13981-2157345d@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021 – 0807

Dear Wilson Pinto

Thank you for your email on 14 October 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

Could you please provide Essential skills visa processing times from Jan 2020 for those applicants who are currently awaiting SMC resident visa decision. I do not need general essential visa processing times but only for those applications awaiting SMC decisions.

Our response

The table below provides information regarding Essential Skills applications lodged and completed from 1 January 2020 whose applicants had an open Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) residence application lodged as of 22 October 2020.

Application Visa Type	Applications completed within 35 days	Applications completed within 81 Days	Applications completed within 4 months
Essential Skills	15	39	82

Under COVID 19 Alert Level 4 all Immigration New Zealand (INZ) offices were closed, this caused a delay in processing in visa applications due to limited resources and resources were directed to COVID 19 related applications.

Please Note:

Timeliness based on the number of days between when application has been lodged and decided.

An SMC application must have been active between the lodgement and completion date of the Essential Skills application.



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



The intervals in the above table are reflective of the processing times presented on the INZ website for essential skills visa applications <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/waiting-for-a-visa/how-long-it-takes-to-process-your-visa-application>.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Adam Jones, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at adam.jones@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

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