



23 March 2021

ljb630710

fyi-request-13991-9ba57c1f@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021 – 0823

Dear ljb630710

Thank you for your email on 16 October 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *“Total count of EOIs (expressions of interest) and count of persons currently in the Parents residency visa pool.*
2. *Count of EOIs and count of persons which have been submitted before 15 September 2018 and are still in the pool.*
3. *Count of new EOIs and count of persons which have been submitted after 24th Feb 2020.*
4. *Count of EOIs and count of persons which have been withdrawn between 8th Oct 2019 and now.*
5. *Any documents or communication emails showing considerations of reopening Parents residency visa EOIs”*

On 24 December 2020, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) responded to parts 1 to 4 of your request.

The Ministry is aware that the current pandemic situation is impacting people in many ways and has created a range of visa-related issues. The Government reopened and reset the Parent Resident Visa programme in February 2020 with the first selection from the Parent Category EOI pool scheduled for late May 2020. However, due to the COVID 19 response the selection process was suspended.

In October 2020, the Parent Resident Visa programme was deferred for a further 6 months. The continued deferrals are a temporary measure and allowed Immigration New Zealand (INZ) to focus on processing applications from people who are in New Zealand or those eligible to travel here while the border restrictions are in place.

The Government will review this decision this year to assess when the selections can resume taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation. I attach herewith an excerpt from the Briefing BR2021-0162 COVID-19 response: reviewing the deferral of Expression of Interest (EOI) selections for Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Parent Category. This is released under section 16(1)(e) of the Act.

Any changes made by INZ in this regard will be announced on the INZ website:

www.immigration.govt.nz

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Dunstan', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Dunstan
General Manager – Enablement
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment