



29 October 2020

Hugo

fyi-request-14013-49bd40d9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-0864

Dear Hugo

I refer to your email of 20 August 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry), requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *"Why is EOI not open for people who already in New Zealand? Is it not contradict your statement above (" focus on processing applications from people who are in New Zealand")?*
2. *In your statement it says "This decision will be reviewed in 2021". On which day will the decision be reviewed? Is it after 6 month, namely 20th April?"*

The Expression of Interest (EOI) selection process for the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Parent Category has been deferred and a decision as to when this will resume has not yet been made. This is a temporary measure and Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will continue to reassess and determine when EOI selections can take place as the situation develops.

Under current immigration settings, the selection of EOIs is not prioritised based on whether the potential applicant is inside or outside of New Zealand. INZ understands that people who submitted EOIs from outside of New Zealand did so with an expectation of these being treated the same as EOIs submitted from within New Zealand.

Regarding the following statement on the INZ website *"The continued deferral of these EOI selections allows INZ to focus on processing applications from people who are in New Zealand or those eligible to travel here while border restrictions are in place"*.

This statement refers to the processing of visa applications from people who are in New Zealand, as opposed to Expressions of Interest (EOIs), a precursor to being invited to apply, and then submitting an application for residence, under the SMC and Parent Category. For example, for SMC, this means INZ is able to focus on processing the existing queue of applications already on hand, i.e. applications from applicants who are in New Zealand, who have submitted an EOI (before the EOI selections were suspended), had their EOI selected, been invited to apply, and then submitted their residence application.

In response to part 2 of your request, INZ anticipates this decision being reviewed before the end of March 2021.

If you wish to discuss this response, please email INZOfficialCorrespondence@mbie.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