



Fan Zhang

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Ref: DOIA 2021 - 0972

Dear Fan Zhang

Thank you for your email of 9 November 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*May I have the information in relation to Skilled Migrant Category Residence (SMC) Visa Application please?*

*Q1: May I have your advice about the total number of onshore SMC Residence Visa Application in the non-priority queue awaiting allocation of Case Officer (CO) as of your responding day?*

*Q2: Based upon the first question, the total number being provided by you, in which, how many of them were lodged before 11 June 2019? Would appreciate if the figure could be provided in a weekly lodgement manner.*

*Q3: What is the oldest date of the lodged application awaiting allocation of CO within the non-priority queue as of your responding day?*

*Q4: How many applications from the priority queue and the non-priority queue were allocated for CO in September, October, and as of your responding day respectively? It notes allocating CO occurs weekly. Would appreciate if the information could be provided in a weekly manner.*

## **Our response**

### Question 1

*May I have your advice about the total number of onshore SMC Residence Visa Application in the non-priority queue awaiting allocation of Case Officer (CO) as of your responding day?*

As at 24 November 2020 there are 9,077 Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) applications in the onshore non-priority queue pending allocation to an immigration officer for assessment.

### Question 2

*Based upon the first question, the total number being provided by you, in which, how many of them were lodged before 11 June 2019? Would appreciate if the figure could be provided in a weekly lodgement manner.*



Please refer to Table 1 below:

**Table 1: SMC applications in the onshore non-priority queue lodged before 11 June 2019, broken down by week**

Week beginning	20/05/2019	27/05/2019	3/06/2019	10/06/2019
Number of applications lodged*	1	1	47	12

\*the data is accurate as at 24 November 2020

### Question 3

*What is the oldest date of the lodged application awaiting allocation of CO within the non-priority queue as of your responding day?*

As at 24 November 2020 the oldest SMC application in the onshore non-priority queue waiting for allocation was lodged on 24 May 2019.

### Question 4

*How many applications from the priority queue and the non-priority queue were allocated for CO in September, October, and as of your responding day respectively? It notes allocating CO occurs weekly. Would appreciate if the information could be provided in a weekly manner.*

Please refer to Table 2 below:

Please note that the skilled residence applications processed in the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Manukau office are made up of SMC and Residence from Work (RFW) applications. They are not split into two separate queues based on the application category. Once an application is accepted for processing it is then identified as to whether it meets the prioritisation criteria, or not, and triaged into either the priority or non-priority queue. Therefore the below data contains both SMC and RFW categories.

Please also note that skilled residence applications for applicants who are outside of New Zealand are currently on hold. This is because INZ is not able to legally grant a visa to people who are unlikely to meet the entry requirements. As such, offshore applications have been separated and are not currently being processed. Processing for offshore applications will resume when the border re-opens.

**Table 2: Weekly allocation of skilled residence applications from 31/08/2020 to 30/11/2020**

Week beginning	Priority applications allocation	Non-priority applications allocation
31/08/2020	19	115
07/09/2020	45	177
14/09/2020	77	97

21/09/2020	63	123
28/09/2020	49	110
05/10/2020	58	152
12/10/2020	82	58
19/10/2020	44	147
26/10/2020	8	169
02/11/2020	16	175
09/11/2020	67	172
16/11/2020	68	184
23/11/2020	40	205
30/11/2020	70	156

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Dongrui Pang, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at [Dongrui.Pang@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Dongrui.Pang@mbie.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely



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