



18 DEC 2020

Santiago Novillo

fyi-request-14148-4e15f835@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021 – 1016

Dear Santiago

Thank you for your email on 17 November 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

1) Total number of non-priority (off-shore included) resident class visa applications accepted (on-hand) to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.

2) Number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications accepted (on-hand) to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.

3) Monthly list with number of non-priority (off-shore included) resident class visa applications lodged between January 2019 to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.

4) Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications lodged between January 2019 to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others, listed per month.

5) Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE resident visa class applications, discriminated in priority and non-priority, allocated to a Case officer between August 2020 to date.

6) Average processing times for Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visas before the new prioritisation criteria came into effect on February 24th 2020.

7) Total number of Talent (Accredited Employer) WORK visas granted from February 24th 2018 to February 24th 2020.

8) A comprehensive and detailed description of the internal procedures followed by Case Officers to process Skilled Migrant Category and Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visas.

Our response

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not have a specific Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) queue but one for skilled residence applications. The applications are not split into two separate queues based on the application category. All applications are separated into the stated priorities as per Immigration Instructions A16.1.

Please note that for questions 3 and 4 there has been numbers of applications which have been redacted under section 9(2) (a) of the Official Information Act 1982. The number of applications in these tables is under 5. To protect the information potentially being used to breach the privacy of any applicants this had not been provided.

- 1) *As at 20 November 2020, total number of non-priority (off-shore included) resident class visa applications accepted (on-hand either allocation or unallocated) to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.*

Application category	Number of applications on hand
Long Term Skill Shortage List Occupation	345
Religious Worker	105
South Island Contribution	625
Talent - Accredited Employer	2492
Talent - Arts and Culture	13
Talent - Sports	8
Skilled Migrant	10381

- 2) *As at 20 November 2020, Total number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications accepted (on-hand either allocation or unallocated) to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.*

Application category	Number of applications on-hand
Long Term Skill Shortage List Occupation	341
Religious Worker	101
South Island Contribution	622
Talent - Accredited Employer	2479
Talent - Arts and Culture	13
Talent - Sports	7
Skilled Migrant	8767

- 3) *As at 20 November 2020, monthly list with number of non-priority (off-shore included) (on hand either allocation or unallocated) resident class visa applications lodged between January 2019 to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.*

Month accepted	Long Term Skill Shortage List Occupation	Religious Worker	Skilled Migrant	South Island Contribution	Talent - Accredited Employer	Talent - Arts and Culture	Talent - Sports
January 2019	0	0	32	0	0	0	0
February 2019	<=5	0	115	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	69	0	0	0	0

2019							
April 2019	0	0	73	0	0	0	0
May 2019	<=5	0	85	0	0	0	0
June 2019	0	0	145	0	0	0	0
July 2019	<=5	<=5	905	0	0	0	0
August 2019	<=5	10	804	0	0	<=5	0
September 2019	0	<=5	725	0	0	0	0
October 2019	11	7	740	34	0	<=5	<=5
November 2019	24	8	796	89	0	0	<=5
December 2019	23	<=5	798	80	0	0	<=5
January 2020	24	<=5	655	44	0	0	0
February 2020	14	7	1019	61	14	<=5	0
March 2020	14	10	846	60	175	<=5	0
April 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 2020	<=5	0	94	<=5	19	0	0
June 2020	44	9	1411	66	284	<=5	0
July 2020	56	6	556	88	565	<=5	<=5
August 2020	<=5	<=5	95	19	118	<=5	0
September 2020	39	18	230	44	500	0	0
October 2020	34	12	77	22	349	0	<=5
November 2020	26	<=5	67	10	265	<=5	0

4) *Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications lodged between January 2019 to date on hand, either allocated or unallocated, discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others, listed per month.*

Month accepted	Long Term Skill Shortage List Occupation	Religious Worker	Skilled Migrant	South Island Contribution	Talent - Accredited Employer	Talent - Arts and Culture	Talent - Sports
January 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

March 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June 2019	0	0	65	0	0	0	0
July 2019	0	<=5	772	0	0	0	0
August 2019	0	9	704	0	0	<=5	0
September 2019	0	<=5	635	0	0	0	0
October 2019	11	6	654	33	0	<=5	<=5
November 2019	24	8	701	89	0	0	<=5
December 2019	23	<=5	710	80	0	0	<=5
January 2020	24	<=5	563	42	0	0	0
February 2020	14	<=5	906	61	12	<=5	0
March 2020	14	10	780	60	171	<=5	0
April 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 2020	<=5	0	76	<=5	19	0	0
June 2020	44	9	1288	66	283	<=5	0
July 2020	56	6	493	88	562	<=5	<=5
August 2020	<=5	<=5	80	19	117	<=5	0
September 2020	39	18	194	44	499	0	0
October 2020	34	12	64	22	348	0	<=5
November 2020	26	<=5	46	10	265	<=5	0

5) Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE resident visa class applications, discriminated in priority and non-priority, allocated to a Case officer between August 2020 to date.

Allocation of Skilled Residence applications from 3 August 2020 to 20 November 2020

Week of allocation	Total	Priority	Non Priority
<i>3 August 2020</i>	204	154	48
<i>10 August 2020</i>	209	168	37
<i>17 August 2020</i>	172	165	4
<i>24 August 2020</i>	266	116	149
<i>31 August 2020</i>	141	19	115
<i>7 September 2020</i>	225	45	177

14 September 2020	177	77	97
21 September 2020	190	63	123
28 September 2020	160	49	110
5 October 2020	210	58	152
12 October 2020	141	82	58
19 October 2020	191	44	147
26 October 2020	178	8	169
2 November 2020	191	16	175
9 November 2020	246	67	172
16 November 2020	252	68	184
23 November 2020	252	40	205
30 November 2020	227	70	156
7 December 2020	198	52	143
14 December 2020	228	57	171

- 6) *Average processing times for Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visas before the new prioritisation criteria came into effect on February 24th 2020.*

50% of applications completed within as at 20 November 2020	75% of applications completed within as at 20 November 2020	90% of applications completed within as at November 2020
74 days	102 days	148 days

- 7) *Total number of Talent (Accredited Employer) WORK visas granted from February 24th 2018 to February 24th 2020.*

Month decided	Number of applications
February 2018	64
March 2018	528
April 2018	507
May 2018	640
June 2018	532
July 2018	634
August 2018	541
September 2018	596
October 2018	720
November 2018	723
December 2018	614
January 2019	641
February 2019	581
March 2019	665
April 2019	783
May 2019	1096
June 2019	878
July 2019	1049
August 2019	1142

September 2019	1498
October 2019	1160
November 2019	1584
December 2019	925
January 2020	486
February 2020	293

8) *A comprehensive and detailed description of the internal procedures followed by Case Officers to process Skilled Migrant Category and Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visas*

This question was clarified on 7 December 2020 to be the step by step processes which immigration officers (IOs) follow to process SMC and RFW application.

Please find attached in appendix A the standard operating procedures for SMC.

Please find attached in appendix B & C, training material and a mock assessment (used to demonstrate to IOs a RFW assessment) has been provided for the RFW category. Further to this, I have linked the operations manual to the RFW talent accredited employer category <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#41990.htm>

As IOs will follow this when assessing the applications. The category does not have a standard operating procedure.

You have the right to contest the decision to withhold information by seeking an investigation and review of that decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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
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Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment