



3 February 2021

Daniel

By email: fyi-request-14412-cfafacd7@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-1260

Dear Daniel

Thank you for your email of 7 January 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

May I request the total number of SMC/WTR application which submitted ON/before 5th July 2019 currently in queue waiting allocation for a case officer. Breakdown in onshore, offshore application please.

Our response

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not have a specific Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) queue but one for skilled residence applications. These applications are SMC and Resident from Work (RFW) and are all processed in the Manukau office. The applications are not split into two separate queues based on the application category.

The following table sets out the number of skilled residence submitted on or before 5 July 2019 that were 'in queue' awaiting allocation to be assessed as at 14 January 2021, with a breakdown of onshore and offshore applications.

Accepted Months	Skilled residence applications	
	Offshore Non Priority	Onshore Non Priority
Jan-19	30	0
Feb-19	114	1
Mar-19	66	1
Apr-19	70	3
May-19	83	3
Jun-19	78	0
Jul-19	19	6

Allocations of applications to immigration officers occur weekly and the number of applications that are allocated is dependent upon processing capacity.

INZ is currently allocating prioritised skilled residence applications within two weeks of the application joining the priority queue, and non-priority cases which were lodged up to and including 4 July 2019.

The New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) Planning Range sets the upper and lower number for residence visa approvals. The previous Planning Range was 50,000 to 60,000 residence approvals from

1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019. The Government is currently reviewing its approach to the NZRP and is considering replacing the planning range with a more targeted approach that focuses on management of specific residence visa types. In the meantime, INZ will continue to process applications at same volume and with the same level of resourcing as the previous NZRP allowed for, this does have an impact on the number of applications that can be allocated and the timeliness of application processing.

Any updates in regards to the allocation of applications can be found at the following link: www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-timeframe-information.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Hogg', is centered on the page.

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