



10 March 2021

Sonu

fyi-request-14718-823bbdc8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1553

Dear Sonu,

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

“Could you please let me know, How many onshore SMC applications are waiting for case officer before 10 march 2020. Can you please provide information about the number of application received each month? Like (jan, feb, March)”

Our Response

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

The SMC and RFW Category applications will be prioritised for allocation to an immigration officer if the principal applicant is in New Zealand and:

- is paid twice the median wage or higher (currently NZD \$51 an hour or NZD \$106,080 a year), or
- works in an occupation where registration is required by immigration instructions and holds that registration.

Applications that do not meet the criterion for prioritisation are allocated to an immigration officer in the order they are received. Applications however, can be prioritised or deprioritised if an applicant's circumstances change.

As of 25 February 2021, INZ is allocating:

- Non-prioritised SMC and RFW applications received in July 2019, and
- Prioritised SMC and RFW applications within two weeks of the application joining the priority queue.

Please refer to the table below which provides the number of SMC applications on hand as at 20 February 2021 in the onshore non priority queue that are yet to be allocated to a case officer, and were accepted for processing prior to 10 March 2020. This has been broken down by the month the applications were accepted.

Month Accepted	Number of applications
Jul-19	3
Aug-19	471



Sep-19	607
Oct-19	637
Nov-19	689
Dec-19	700
Jan-20	554
Feb-20	886
Mar-20	349

Any updates in regards to the allocation of applications can be found via 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 Lautalie Leusa Vaa, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Lautalie.Leusavaa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Hogg
General Manager - Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand