



29 April 2021

Kwanjira Chanthawas
fyi-request-14768-49632d86@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1870

Dear Kwanjira Chanthawas,

Thank you for your email of 26 February 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

*“Could you please clarify the message below;
‘As of 09 March 2021, INZ is allocating:
• Non-prioritised SMC and RFW applications received in August 2019’
What is the specific date in August?”*

On 22 April you further clarified that you would like to know the allocation date of the date that this request has been replied.

Our Response

Please note there are consultation processes involved in obtaining data. There are also sign out processes involved prior to the external release of any information under the OIA. This means we are unable to provide data information as at the date the request is responded to.

As at 27 April 2021, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) is allocating non prioritised Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Resident from Work (RFW) applications received on 06 August 2019. This is the date that all information required for the acceptance of the application was actually received by INZ rather than the date the data entry was completed.

Most data used in OIA responses is pulled directly from the INZ Application Management System (AMS), and reflects the date that the data entry relating to the application was completed in AMS. On occasion an application is received by INZ on one date, but the data entry is not complete until a later date. In the interest of fairness, when allocating applications the Manukau office use the date that all information required for the acceptance of the application was actually received by INZ rather than the date the data entry was completed – which reflects when a client will perceive their application to have been submitted. This means that there may be differences noted in the allocation data, which is sourced directly from the Manukau office, when compared with other statistics about skilled residence, including number and dates of applications in the queues.

It is important to note that skilled residence queue data is not static due to the complex nature of visa processing operations. Applications move between queues and this needs to be taken into account when comparing data over time. The data changes over time for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- Applicants arriving into New Zealand on critical purpose visas result in their applications moving from the offshore queue to one of the onshore queues;
- A change in an applicant’s circumstances resulting in their application meeting the priority criteria and being moved to the priority queue;

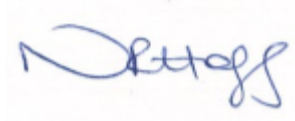


- Applications being escalated via the Employment Visa Escalation (EVE) process - <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/newsletters/korero/korero-july-2019/employment-visa-escalations-eve>;
- Applications selected to be used in training new Immigration Officers.

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 Leausa Vaa, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



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