



04 May 2021

Anatoliy Goryachev

By email: fyi-request-14878-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-1736

Dear Anatoliy Goryachev

Thank you for your email of 08 March 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

- 1) Could you please share the numbers on how many residence applications were allocated to case officers (separately for priority and non-priority queue) for each of the weeks below: Week commencing 04 January 2021; Week commencing 11 January 2021; Week commencing 18 January 2021; Week commencing 25 January 2021; Week commencing 01 February 2021; Week commencing 08 February 2021; Week commencing 15 February 2021; Week commencing 22 February 2021; Week commencing 01 March 2021; Week commencing 08 March 2021; Week commencing 15 March 2021; Week commencing 22 March 2021; Week commencing 29 March 2021, etc... (Please provide numbers up to the date of the reply)*
- 2) What is the total number of priority / non-priority applications in SMC/RFW queue currently awaiting for CO allocation? Also, please provide number of applicants behind these applications.*
- 3) Could you please provide data for the number of EOI applications (and number of applicants behind these EOIs) currently sitting in the pool and waiting for the selection.*
- 4) What is the total number of offshore applications in the SMC queue currently awaiting for CO allocation? Please provide number of applicants behind these applications.*

Our response

1) Could you please share the numbers on how many residence applications were allocated to case officers (separately for priority and non-priority queue) for each of the weeks below...

From the context of your request we have interpreted your request to relate to skilled residence applications. Please refer to Table One attached.

2) What is the total number of priority / non-priority applications in SMC/RFW queue currently awaiting for CO allocation? Also, please provide number of applicants behind these applications.

Please refer to Table Two attached for the number of applications and applicants in the skilled residence queues awaiting allocation, as at 25 March 2021.

3) Could you please provide data for the number of EOI applications (and number of applicants behind these EOIs) currently sitting in the pool and waiting for the selection.

We have interpreted this question to relate to Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) Expressions of Interest (EOI) given the context of the other questions. As at 25 March 2021, there were 8,159 SMC EOI awaiting selection from the pool, including 18,296 applicants.

4) What is the total number of offshore applications in the SMC queue currently awaiting for CO allocation? Please provide number of applicants behind these applications.

INZ does not have a specific SMC queue, but rather one for skilled residence applications, which includes SMC and Residence from Work (RFW). Please refer to Table Two attached which provides a breakdown of the skilled residence queues including the number of offshore applications and applicants.

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.

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 completed 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.

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 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 'N Hogg', is centered on the page.

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

Table One - Allocation information relating to skilled residence (SMC and RFW) applications

Week commencing	Priority skilled residence applications allocated	Non-priority skilled residence applications allocated	Applications allocated via the employment visa escalation (EVE) process ¹
4 January 2021	47	104	4
11 January 2021	16	97	2
18 January 2021	49	114	0
25 January 2021	58	92	5
1 February 2021	41	129	3
9 February 2021	17	177	0
16 February 2021	60	17	6
22 February 2021	21	49	0
1 March 2021	35	30	1
8 March 2021	52	0	0
15 March 2021	73	49	0
22 March 2021	16	118	0
29 March 2021	26	80	2
5 April 2021	47	20	0
12 April 2021	37	31	1
19 April 2021	79	4	0
26 April 2021	45	39	3

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¹ Employment Visa Escalation is a process to respond to escalation requests for urgent allocation for employment related visas (and associated family members) for both Temporary Work Visas and Skilled Resident Visas. For more information see the INZ website here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/newsletters/korero/korero-july-2019/employment-visa-escalations-eve>

Table Two - Number of applications and applicants in the skilled residence queues awaiting allocation, as at 25 March 2021

	Priority queue	Onshore non-priority queue	Offshore non-priority queue
Applications	58	11,466	1,607
Applicants	148	25,273	4,544

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