



03 May 2021

A Singh

fyi-request-14973-6a76720b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1858

Dear A Singh,

Thank you for your email of 21 March 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

“1. Number of Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa applications approved in last 5 years. Please provide the monthly break up starting from March 2021 and going backwards for 60 months.

2. Government spending on direct and in-direct advertising to attract Skilled Migrants in last 5 years. (Year wise break up)

3. Number of Resident Visa applications approved (all streams including SMC and RFW) in last 5 years. Please provide the monthly break up starting from March 2021 and going backwards for 60 months

4. Number of ITAs (Invitation to Apply) issued in last 5 years. Please provide the monthly break up starting from March 2021 and going backwards for 60 months.

5. Residence visa targets as per NZRP vs Residence visa granted in last 5 years. Please provide what was the target for that year and what was the achievement against that target.

6. Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa processing time information as per INZ website in last 5 years, which should include –

a) Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa processing time on INZ website as on 31st March 2016 b) Next date of processing time update on INZ website and what was the new updated processing time.

c) And so on until the most recent update.”

Our Response

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

Please see Appendix One attached which provides the following:

- **Table One:** The total number of SMC applications approved from 01 March 2016 to 5 April 2021 (inclusive), broken down by month the application was decided.

- **Table Two:** The amount of spending on direct and indirect advertising to attract Skilled Migrants over the last 5 years (2016 - 2020).
- **Table Three:** The number of residence visa applications approved from 01 March 2016 to 05 April 2021 (inclusive), broken down by application stream and month decided.
- **Table Four:** The total number of Invitations to apply (ITA) issued between 01 March 2016 and 5 April 2021 (inclusive), broken down by the month issued.
- **Table Five:** The total number of residence visa applications granted against the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) planning range within the planning periods 01 July 2016 to 30 June 2018 (inclusive) and 01 July 2018 to 31 December 2019 (inclusive).
- **Table Six:** The average calendar days taken to process SMC applications completed from 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2021 (inclusive). This has been broken down by percentiles within 3 monthly intervals.

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

Appendix One:

Table One: Total number of SMC applications approved from 01 March 2016 to 5 April 2021 (inclusive), broken down by month the application was decided.

Month Decided	Number of SMC applications approved
Mar-16	1,175
Apr-16	1,146
May-16	1,333
Jun-16	1,233
Jul-16	813
Aug-16	973
Sep-16	1,027
Oct-16	851
Nov-16	1,097
Dec-16	815
Jan-17	862
Feb-17	1,214
Mar-17	1,305
Apr-17	868
May-17	1,048
Jun-17	1,151
Jul-17	263
Aug-17	566
Sep-17	593
Oct-17	710
Nov-17	875
Dec-17	757
Jan-18	806
Feb-18	869
Mar-18	929
Apr-18	763
May-18	699
Jun-18	585
Jul-18	336
Aug-18	398
Sep-18	355
Oct-18	503
Nov-18	650
Dec-18	479
Jan-19	402
Feb-19	588
Mar-19	639
Apr-19	560
May-19	698
Jun-19	443
Jul-19	638

Aug-19	465
Sep-19	357
Oct-19	660
Nov-19	307
Dec-19	257
Jan-20	327
Feb-20	255
Mar-20	345
May-20	360
Jun-20	601
Jul-20	525
Aug-20	497
Sep-20	549
Oct-20	507
Nov-20	860
Dec-20	537
Jan-21	502
Feb-21	352
Mar-21	320
Apr-21	8
Total	40,606

Table Two: The amount of spending on direct and indirect advertising to attract Skilled Migrants over the last 5 years (2016 - 2020).

Year	Amount (\$NZD)
2016	\$310,977.15
2017	\$368,497.75
2018	\$453,352.32
2019	\$614,501.58
2020	\$159,352.36

Table Three: The number of residence visa applications approved from 01 March 2016 to 05 April 2021 (inclusive), broken down by month decided and application stream.

Month Decided	Residence Application Streams				Total
	Business / Skilled	International / Humanitarian	Parent Sibling Adult Child Stream	Uncapped Family Sponsored Stream	
Mar-16	1,304	168	308	884	2,664
Apr-16	1,258	109	278	859	2,504
May-16	1,530	163	296	953	2,942
Jun-16	1,365	136	222	697	2,420
Jul-16	957	104	455	770	2,286
Aug-16	1,110	90	256	931	2,387

Sep-16	1,195	111	191	926	2,423
Oct-16	1,017	119	57	964	2,157
Nov-16	1,263	125	39	1,020	2,447
Dec-16	911	106	44	867	1,928
Jan-17	1,025	127	23	966	2,141
Feb-17	1,387	151	38	1,208	2,784
Mar-17	1,471	208	40	1,240	2,959
Apr-17	1,001	124	29	856	2,010
May-17	1,184	172	8	1,119	2,483
Jun-17	1,326	123	6	797	2,252
Jul-17	358	132	16	809	1,315
Aug-17	650	114	18	735	1,517
Sep-17	717	136	20	708	1,581
Oct-17	832	160	49	774	1,815
Nov-17	1,036	133	77	789	2,035
Dec-17	841	86	53	622	1,602
Jan-18	923	132	48	819	1,922
Feb-18	1,018	157	95	930	2,200
Mar-18	1,072	162	99	1,154	2,487
Apr-18	904	187	182	970	2,243
May-18	859	134	188	1,154	2,335
Jun-18	742	103	133	953	1,931
Jul-18	463	147	49	1,128	1,787
Aug-18	556	128	58	1,266	2,008
Sep-18	490	140	27	975	1,632
Oct-18	716	161	32	1,112	2,021
Nov-18	853	166	21	1,232	2,272
Dec-18	618	149	21	676	1,464
Jan-19	555	167	12	662	1,396
Feb-19	785	148	10	618	1,561
Mar-19	875	158	10	668	1,711
Apr-19	731	80	9	650	1,470
May-19	922	160	4	773	1,859
Jun-19	659	149	.	630	1,438
Jul-19	882	105	1	762	1,750
Aug-19	728	115	3	939	1,785
Sep-19	629	120	2	867	1,618
Oct-19	1,029	141	2	968	2,140
Nov-19	520	143	1	1,088	1,752
Dec-19	460	88	1	814	1,363
Jan-20	716	138	2	798	1,654
Feb-20	541	184	2	855	1,582
Mar-20	544	100	1	626	1,271
Apr-20	0	32	0	0	32
May-20	497	58	0	296	851
Jun-20	838	75	0	812	1,725
Jul-20	695	96	0	1,037	1,828
Aug-20	724	72	0	1,021	1,817

Sep-20	757	123	1	1,213	2,094
Oct-20	706	77	0	1,549	2,332
Nov-20	1,137	80	0	1,560	2,777
Dec-20	788	88	1	1,157	2,034
Jan-21	720	44	0	1,406	2,170
Feb-21	493	59	0	1,322	1,874
Mar-21	509	92	0	1,621	2,222
Apr-21	15	3	0	54	72
Total	51,407	7,558	3,538	56,629	119,132

Table Four: The total number of Invitations to apply (ITA) issued between 01 March 2016 and 5 April 2021 (inclusive), broken down by the month issued.

Month Issued	Total
Mar-16	1,600
Apr-16	1,910
May-16	1,655
Jun-16	1,409
Jul-16	1,894
Aug-16	1,584
Sep-16	1,718
Oct-16	1,379
Nov-16	912
Dec-16	562
Jan-17	551
Feb-17	571
Mar-17	726
Apr-17	742
May-17	797
Jun-17	1,139
Jul-17	2,027
Aug-17	426
Sep-17	496
Oct-17	961
Nov-17	801
Dec-17	545
Jan-18	881
Feb-18	493
Mar-18	753
Apr-18	640
May-18	860
Jun-18	744
Jul-18	309
Aug-18	1,090
Sep-18	1,754
Oct-18	996
Nov-18	1,018

Dec-18	679
Jan-19	704
Feb-19	1,366
Mar-19	1,183
Apr-19	1,092
May-19	1,523
Jun-19	1,155
Jul-19	1,159
Aug-19	1,115
Sep-19	1,189
Oct-19	1,407
Nov-19	1,941
Dec-19	926
Jan-20	1,097
Feb-20	1,705
Mar-20	1,247
Apr-20	5
Total	53,436

Table Five: The total number of residence visa applications granted against the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) planning range within the planning periods 01 July 2016 to 30 June 2018 (inclusive) and 01 July 2018 to 31 December 2019 (inclusive).

Note that the increased resident visa processing times are a consequence of increasing volumes of resident visa applications. INZ's capacity to assess those applications is determined by the planning range set by Government under the previous NZRP.

The last NZRP ran from 1 July 2018 until 31 December 2019 and included a planning range of 50,000 to 60,000 residence approvals. A total of 52,048 people were approved residence during the 18 months. 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.

Planning Period	Planning Range	Total Granted
1 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2018	85-95,000	85,719
1 Jul 2018 to 31 Dec 2019	50-60,000	52,167

Table Six: The average calendar days taken to process SMC applications. This has been broken down by percentiles within 3 monthly intervals for applications completed from 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2021 (inclusive).

Note that INZ measure average processing times in calendar days from the time an application is accepted for processing, to when the application has been finalised and completed in the Immigration Application Management System.

The time taken to assess an application can vary considerably and is impacted by a number of factors. This can depend on the quality of the supporting documents and whether we require further information or verification of the information provided. Residence applications naturally take longer to process as there is more at stake and there is greater scrutiny of each application, which means there is a flow-on effect and the allocation of new applications to an immigration officer can take longer.

Date Intervals	50% completed within: (days)	75% completed within: (days)	90% completed within: (days)
1 Apr 2016 - 30 Jun 2016	127	180	266
1 Jul 2016 - 30 Sep 2016	120	177	286
1 Oct 2016 - 31 Dec 2016	149	196	305
1 Jan 2017 - 31 Mar 2017	173	215	286
1 Apr 2017 - 30 Jun 2017	191	246	308
1 Jul 2017 - 30 Sep 2017	203	295	375
1 Oct 2017 - 31 Dec 2017	136	265	406
1 Jan 2018 - 31 Mar 2018	142	212	318
1 Apr 2018 - 30 Jun 2018	143	208	300
1 Jul 2018 - 30 Sep 2018	110	179	283
1 Oct 2018 - 31 Dec 2018	131	191	256
1 Jan 2019 - 31 Mar 2019	158	219	299
1 Apr 2019 - 30 Jun 2019	175	226	296
1 Jul 2019 - 30 Sep 2019	148	270	377
1 Oct 2019 - 31 Dec 2019	154	326	427
1 Jan 2020 - 31 Mar 2020	194	409	519
1 Apr 2020 - 30 Jun 2020	189	248	462
1 Jul 2020 - 30 Sep 2020	237	536	617
1 Oct 2020 - 31 Dec 2020	595	631	688
1 Jan 2021 - 31 Mar 2021	624	666	726