



12 May 2021

Satish

fyi-request-15286-b353dab2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1920-2165

Dear Satish

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received on 28 April 2021 requesting the following:

Could you please help me understand a couple of things that are listed below:-

- 1. NZRP quota (Lower and Upper limit included) for the SMC for the current period?.*
- 2. When the current quota will expire?.*
- 3. Is the INZ considering working towards the lower quota or the higher quota limits set by the govt?.*
- 4. The number of approvals left (if the INZ is considering the lower quota).*
- 5. Has INZ communicated and asked the Minister of Immigration to release the new Quota to work on the backlog they have?.*

Our response

Your request does not come within the definition of “official information” in section 2 of the OIA. The OIA cannot be used to force agencies to engage in debate or generate justifications or explanations in relation to a matter of interest to the requestor. As your request is outside the scope of the OIA I can provide you with some information about the NZRP as general correspondence.

In December 2018, Cabinet agreed to updated objectives for the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) and to a changed approach for managing residence numbers (Cabinet Paper *New Zealand Residence Programme: New objectives and approach to managing residence numbers*). The updated objectives are:

- To maximise the contribution of the NZRP to the economic and social wellbeing of New Zealand and New Zealanders by:
 - attracting skilled workers and business migrants;
 - reunifying the families of New Zealand residents and citizens; and
 - meeting international and humanitarian commitments;
- To manage overall residence numbers through controlling each of the individual components of the programme.



Cabinet agreed to shift from a single planning range that covers the whole NZRP to an approach where residence numbers and priorities are managed directly through the individual resident visa categories. Disruptions have meant that the new approach could not be implemented before the previous planning range expired. Immigration New Zealand continues to process applications at the same volume and with the same level of resourcing as the previous planning range allowed for.

As at 26 April 2021 INZ approved 23,461 people under the Business/Skilled stream since 1 January 2020. INZ is therefore still tracking to achieve the mid-point range of this stream.

Note the Business/Skilled stream includes all decision made under Skilled Migrant Category (SMC), Work from Residence applications, Investor 1 and 2, Entrepreneur. There is no separate stream for SMC decisions.

I trust you find the information helpful.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact Matt Burden, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support at Matt.Burden@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Matt Burden
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