



Grant Johnson
fyi-request-19260-7f3745ea@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2122-2079

Dear Grant Johnson,

Thank you for your email of 3 May 2022 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

- 1. What is the number of Expressions of Interest (EOI) that are currently in Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) pool?*
- 2. Of those EOIs, how many are there, in which the primary applicant on the EOI is represented in a One-Off 2021 Resident Visa (RV21), either as the primary applicant of the RV21 application or as the secondary applicant/partner?*
- 3. Of the remaining number of applications in the SMC EOI pool who are not represented in a RV21 application (i.e. answer to question 1 less the answer to question 2), how many applications are there in which the primary applicant was present in New Zealand on September 29, 2021 on visa that qualifies for the RV21 (INZ Operational Manual section S6.10.1) and who also met the "Settled" criteria (described in INZ Operational Manual section S6.15.1) of the RV21?*
- 4. Of the remaining number of SMC EOI pool who are not represented in a RV21 application and do not meet the settled criteria for RV21 (i.e. the answer to question 1 minus the answer to questions 2 and 3), how many of them were present in New Zealand on September 29, 2021 on a visa that qualifies for the RV21? For this last group, can you please break the numbers down by the visa type they held on that day?*

On 9 May 2022 we sought clarification of your request (part 2) which was confirmed on 10 May 2022 to be the following: *2. Of those EOIs, how many principal applicants have applied for a RV 2021 or have been included in a RV21 application.*

Our Response

As of 7 May 2022, the total number of Expressions of Interest (EOI) in the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) selection pool was **11,692**.

We are unable to provide the data to questions 2, 3 and 4 because the information requested is not held in a reportable format and therefore cannot be made available without substantial collation. To find out how many principal applicants in the SMC EOI pool have applied for a 2021 Residence Visa, or are included in a 2021 Residence Visa application, we would need to manually check each of the 11,692 EOIs. We are therefore refusing this portion of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. Providing



this information would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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, please contact INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg', is positioned below the closing text.

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