



20 October 2023

Baz H

fyi-request-24228-f24988eb@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2324-0677

Tēnā koe Baz,

Thank you for your email of 25 September 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

- 1. Does Special Assessment Team (SAT) have a different queue for each visa application type, or it is one general queue for all visa types?*
- 2. What is the received date of the first visa application within SAT queue waiting to be assigned for immigration officer?*
- 3. What is the received date of the first Partnership residence Visa application within SAT queue waiting to be assigned for immigration officer?*
- 4. How many applications are there in SAT queue waiting to be assigned?*

Our Response

Question 1: Does Special Assessment Team (SAT) have a different queue for each visa application type, or it is one general queue for all visa types?

The Special Assessment Team (SAT) processes both residence and temporary visa categories. The team has multiple allocation queues for different visa categories.

Question 2: What is the received date of the first visa application within SAT queue waiting to be assigned for immigration officer?

SAT allocates applications in date order from the queues. As at 12 October 2023, the oldest residence category application in SAT awaiting allocation for assessment was received by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) on 6 April 2023 and the oldest temporary category application awaiting allocation for assessment was received by INZ on 9 June 2023.

Question 3: What is the received date of the first Partnership residence Visa application within SAT queue waiting to be assigned for immigration officer?

As at 12 October 2023, the oldest residence partnership application in SAT awaiting allocation for assessment was received by INZ on 11 July 2023.

Question 4: How many applications are there in SAT queue waiting to be assigned?"

As at 12 October 2023, there were 53 residence category applications and 28 temporary applications in SAT waiting to be allocated for assessment.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the Ministry's response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jock Gilray', written in a cursive style.

Jock Gilray
Director Visa
Chief Operating Officer Branch
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment