



13 DEC 2019

Allan

By email: fyi-request-11686-b6895c6f@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 1920-0811

Dear Allan

Thank you for your email of 19 November 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

According to the SMC resident visa processing time on the INZ website, 50% of the applications completed in 5 months. In May 2019, INZ accepted 1,025 SMC resident applications. So based on the application processing time, 50% of the application completed processing in October 2019 for May 2019 SMC applicants. That means $1025/2 = 512.5$ SMC resident visa applications from May 2019 completed processing.

Can I know is the stats right or wrong? And is INZ lagging behind in the processing numbers?

Our response

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) uses specific terminology when referring to the different stages of processing visa applications. After an application is 'accepted' by Immigration New Zealand, it is assessed, and once a decision is made on the application it is referred to as 'decided'. Although a decision has been made, there may be some further administrative tasks outstanding, such as issuing a physical label into the applicant's passport. The application is not referred to as 'completed' until these tasks are complete and the application is closed off in our application management system.

As at 31 October 2019, of the 1,025 Skilled Migrant Category residence applications INZ accepted in May 2019, 324 applications had been completed (see table below).

Skilled Migrant Residence applications accepted in May 2019

Stream	Substream	Month Accepted	Accepted Count
Business / Skilled	Skilled Migrant	May-19	1025

Completed counts for Skilled Migrant Residence applications accepted in May 2019

Stream	Substream	Completed Count*
Business / Skilled	Skilled Migrant	324

*As at 31 October 2019



Your assumption that, based on the visa processing times published on our website, 512.5 of the Skilled Migrant Category applications accepted in May 2019 should have been completed by the end of October 2019, is not correct.

The visa processing times published on our website are performance measurement statistics. The statistics look at the applications completed within the past three months, and reflect how many of those completed applications were completed within certain timeframes. The statistics are not a reflection of how many applications were completed out of a total number of applications accepted.

For example, the Skilled Migrant Category statistics on our website currently reflect that of the Skilled Migrant Category residence applications completed within the three months prior to 1 December 2019, 50% were completed within 5 months of their tendered date (see table below). However, if we take a cohort of applications (such as the statistics referred to above - Skilled Migrant Category applications accepted in May 2019) it will not necessarily be the case that 50% of these applications are completed within 5 months.

Residence visas

Visa	50% of applications completed within:	75% of applications completed within:	90% of applications completed within:
Partner of a New Zealander	8 months	9 months	10 months
Permanent Resident Visa	12 days	18 days	30 days
Skilled Migrant	5 months	10 months	14 months
Transfer of visa to new passport	10 days	14 days	22 days
Variation of travel conditions on a resident visa	12 days	19 days	27 days

Source: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/waiting-for-a-visa/how-long-it-takes-to-process-your-visa-application>, accessed 06 December 2019.

We are committed to delivering the fastest possible service for visa applicants. How long it takes us to process an application depends on how complex it is. We consider every application separately to make sure it aligns with New Zealand's immigration policy as set out in Immigration Instructions. While INZ is committed to processing visas in a timely manner, the right level of scrutiny must be applied to ensure the right decisions are made for New Zealand.

New Zealand Residence Programme

INZ is resourced to meet the current New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) Planning Range set

by the Government. The current NZRP Planning Range is for 50,000 to 60,000 residence approvals from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019. Further information in regards to the NZRP can be found on INZ's website at: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/government-updates-new-zealand-residence-programme>

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'.

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