



10 MAR 2020

Junlong Wang

[fyi-request-11998-ce487f07@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11998-ce487f07@requests.fyi.org.nz)

File No: DOIA 1920-1065

Dear Junlong Wang

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*I am writing to mainly request for the information below:*

*Q1. Could you please provide the current version of the internally set prioritisation criteria for Skilled Migrant Category application? And if there is any link we can follow for the update of this criteria?*

*2. In this FYI resource*

*(<https://fyi.org.nz/request/11454/response/43381/attach/html/2/05122019084828%200001.pdf.html>), I saw the point 3 in the response of Question 1-2, it's mentioned that Offer from Accredited Employer is listed as a priority to be processed.*

*I wonder who and how I should inform when my employer becomes the Accredited Employer so my application could be prioritised? And after that, how long will it take before my application is allocated to a Case Officer?*

*3. May I request the oldest SMC application in the backlog as at the time this request is being reviewed?*

*4. Is there any government meeting notes mentioning that the current internal prioritisation criteria will be taken away, or any changes will be applied to these criteria?*

An email was sent to you clarifying part (3) of your request. You responded stating the following:

"You're right that I was referring the date of the oldest application in the SMC backlog at current date. But if you can provide more details about that, that's very helpful too!"

#### **Our response**

**1. *Could you please provide the current version of the internally set prioritisation criteria for Skilled Migrant Category application? And if there is any link we can follow for the update of this criteria?***

**2. *In this FYI resource***

***(<https://fyi.org.nz/request/11454/response/43381/attach/html/2/05122019084828%200001.pdf.html>), I saw the point 3 in the response of Question 1-2, it's mentioned that Offer from Accredited Employer is listed as a priority to be processed.***

***I wonder who and how I should inform when my employer becomes the Accredited Employer so my application could be prioritised? And after that, how long will it take before my application is allocated to a Case Officer?***

As at 24 February 2020, INZ changed the prioritisation criteria for Skilled Migrant and Residence from Work Category visa applications. Further information can be found here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-prioritisation-information-for-applicants>.

This change also means that applications lodged under Residence from Work, Talent and Accredited Employer category are no longer part of the priority allocation criteria.

Please note we do not provide allocation timeframe for visa applications, the information you have requested is therefore refused under section 18(e) as the document alleged to contain this information does not exist.

If an individual's circumstance changes during the processing of their application wherein they believe they meet the priority criteria, they may request prioritisation through the Employment Visa Escalation Inbox ([EmploymentVisaEscalations@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:EmploymentVisaEscalations@mbie.govt.nz)). Further information on this process can be found here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/newsletters/korero/korero-july-2019/employment-visa-escalations-eve>.

**3. The date of the oldest application in the SMC backlog at current date, if more details can be provided around this that would be great.**

As at 11 February 2020, the oldest unallocated application in the Skilled Migrant queue was accepted on the 11 December 2018.

**4. Is there any government meeting notes mentioning that the current internal prioritisation criteria will be taken away, or any changes will be applied to these criteria?**

Please find meeting notes that are within scope of your request attached. Note that these meeting notes are in relation to the changes made effective as at 24 February 2020.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information on about how to make complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Ileini Taloa, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at [ileini.taloea@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:ileini.taloea@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Jeannie Melville

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

I have the following notes:

**Date – possibly Friday 24 January**

NZRP – Operational Impacts

- Current Range
- SMC prioritisation
- 90% approved SMC no temp visa in 12 months

**Out of Scope**

1 pager

- Impacts of processing delays on RFW
- Build up of WTR

**Date - possibly Wednesday 29 January**

**Out of Scope**

2A paper

- **Out of Scope**
- + manage volumes
- **Out of Scope**

2017

Add – WTR + SMC changes require xx set them out

CE can prioritise based on outcomes such as those described in DCE memo.

**Date – possibly Thursday 30 January**

- Queue management

**Out of Scope**

- Requests for prioritisation

**Out of Scope**

Options – RFW Accredited Employer

= still able to prioritise other applications?

e.g IPT

- Check para 9 with Legal
- Can we update the Ops Manual?

Out of Scope [redacted]

Out of Scope [redacted]

Out of Scope [redacted]

Date – possibly Friday 31 January

Out of Scope [redacted]

Risk of delayed decision in developed form

Principles letter -  
Keep the queue moving

Briefing

Dis..... [unclear] status quo

- Discuss - 12 Feb
- + Principle Letter
- Then 75% or - 19 – Memo to MOI
- No accredited – - 23 Feb – Publish
- Status

Out of Scope [redacted]

[redacted]

Date – possibly Monday 3 February

[redacted]

% Monthly SMC + RFW that are

- High salary
- Registered occupations

Out of Scope [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] - Out of Scope [redacted]

Out of Scope [redacted]

SMC –  
RFW – AE  
LTSSL  
SIC

Date – possibly Monday 10 February

NZRP

Out of Scope [redacted]

Out of Scope

[Redacted]

Date – Thursday 13 February

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]

- Prioritisation
  - General
  - Memo
  - Comms – Yvette, Marc
    - Next Weds