



Nirav Shastri

fyi-request-12879-4d81c948@requests.fyi.org.nz

24 June 2020

File No: DOIA 1920 – 1695

Dear Nirav Shastri

Thank you for your email on 02 June 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

- *How many immigration Officers working on SMC?*
- *Any planning how you reduce Time-frame for SMC ?*
- *How many Onshore & Offshore application in queue ?*
- *Which is latest lodged application allocated to CO from Non-Prioritized Category?*
- *If Work visa extension which we got if our application under processing that expiring and still we will not get any result then?*

Our response

How many immigration Officers working on SMC?

As of 4 June 2020, 72 Immigration Officers are processing Skilled Migrant Category applications.

Any planning how you reduce Time-frame for SMC?

INZ is committed to processing applications as quickly as possible. However, residence applications generally take longer to process than temporary applications as a residence visa allows an individual to reside in New Zealand permanently. Therefore, there is greater scrutiny of each application, which means processing times will be longer and the allocation of new applications to an immigration officer may also take longer.

In addition, over the last year, demand for the SMC and Residence from Work sub-stream (RfW) has risen significantly. The number of on hand applications has increased considerably, with more than 12,000 unallocated SMC and RfW applications currently on hand. This has resulted in longer decision times for applicants.

To better manage the queue of applications going forward, INZ, with the endorsement of the Minister of Immigration, formalised the priority allocation of some SMC and Residence from Work



applications for highly paid applicants and applicants with current occupational registration (where registration is required by Immigration Instructions).

This has allowed INZ to start allocating older, non-priority applications on a more consistent basis. As a result, INZ began allocating (non-prioritised) SMC and RfW applications received in December 2018. However, the processing of all residence applications was put on hold during Alert Level 4 and 3. Under Alert level 2, the processing of residence applications for clients who are onshore resumed.

How many Onshore & Offshore application in queue?

As of 29 May 2020, there are 11,456 onshore applications in the queue and 1,316 offshore applications.

Which is latest lodged application allocated to CO from Non-Prioritized Category?

As of 29 May 2020, the oldest non-prioritised application in the queue was accepted on 17 December 2018

If Work visa extension which we got if our application under processing that expiring and still we will not get any result then?

If a decision is not made on a residence application within the validity of a temporary visa, a further application for a temporary visa would need to be made. The onus is on all migrants to ensure that they hold the legal right to remain lawfully in NZ at all times.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Margaret Huang, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Margaret.huang@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



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