



Tammy

fyi-request-12915-17a9b08c@requests.fyi.org.nz

18 JUN 2020

File No: DOIA 1920 – 1686

Dear Tammy

Thank you for your email on 28 May 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

INZ now has 2 ques to process SMC resident application , they are priority and non-priority que. My question is why is INZ not allocating case officers to Non -priority que ? They are stuck on December 17 2018 for a while now. Is there any plan to gets these applications processed? If yes when will we hear about that.

Our response

The last New Zealand Residence Programme ran from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019 and included a planning range of 50,000 to 60,000 residence approvals. Over the last year, demand for the Skilled Migrant Category (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.

I note that you made a similar query to the Minister of Immigration and you received a response on 2 March 2020. This request was MOIA 15. In this response, you were advised that there were a lot of people in the queue who were applying for a residence class visa and that Immigration New Zealand (INZ) must ensure that the people with skills New Zealand need the most were prioritised. This meant that those in the priority queue were highly paid applicants and applicants with current occupational registration (where registration is required by Immigration Instructions). For instance, nurses, teachers and doctors. In this response you were also advised that INZ case officers were processing applications from both priority and non-priority queues.

I also note that you made another similar query to INZ and you received a response on 04 June 2020. This OIA request was DOIA 1920-1648. In INZ's response you were advised that INZ's visa processing capacity was limited during Alert Level 4. INZ's capacity to process applications recently increased significantly with 97% of onshore Immigration Officers currently able to work.

As the scope of your request in DOIA 1920-1686 is within the scope of MOIA 15 and DOIA 1920-1648, please refer to MOIA 15 and DOIA 1920-1648 for information to your request.

Please note that *SMC and RFW processing times* was published on the Immigration New Zealand website. You can read this article here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-timeframe-information>

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
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