



Junlong

fyi-request-13078-8d5dd6f1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1920-1748

Dear Junlong,

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2020 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

I am writing to mainly request for the information below:

- 1. How many case officers are assigned to process SMC visa application, and how many out of them are assigned to look after the non-priority queue?*
- 2. As of the date this request is answered, how many applications waiting for allocation are tagged as prioritised?*
- 3. I am aware that INZ started the priority criteria for SMC, so how many non-prioritised applications get approved in each month since then until May 2020?*
- 4. As replied somewhere else, the allocation of priority queue is at Nov 2019, could you please explain why I have heard quite a few applications got prioritised after Nov 2019 have been allocated and approved already? How is Nov 2019 calculated as the result for those replies?*
- 5. Since Aug 2019, non-priority queue almost stays still until now, based on this pace, it will take decades to get the current applications on hand (around 30,000) approved, is there any plan in discussion to mitigate this situation?*

I am writing to advise you that the Ministry will provide a response but needs to extend the time available to answer your request. The Ministry's response will be with you no later than 12 August 2020. The reason for the extension relies on s15a(1)(b) of the OIA - consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot be made within the original time limit.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision to extend the time limit by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

I will respond to you sooner if I am able to.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Greathead', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Greathead
National Manager Business & Specialist
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment