



MP for Mana

Minister of Broadcasting, Communications
and Digital Media

Minister for Government Digital Services

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Minister of Immigration

Associate Minister of Housing (Public Housing)

MPOL 466

Hugo

fyi-request-13170-2464b29a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Hugo

Thank you for your email of 28 June 2020 requesting information about the reopening of Expression of Interest (EOI) selection process.

I made the decision to defer certain scheme opening dates and EOI selections from 1 April 2020. This included deferring the Parent Category EOI selection scheduled for late May and the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) EOI selections that normally take place fortnightly until further notice.

This decision was made due to the COVID-19 outbreak significantly affecting many countries, international travel being severely restricted for the foreseeable future, the difficulty in obtaining the required documents and evidence to submit an application, and Immigration New Zealand's (INZ) limited visa processing capacity during the COVID-19 outbreak.

At the moment COVID-19 is getting worse around the world and not better. That means we cannot provide a date for the recommencement of EOI selections under the Parent Category and the SMC. I acknowledge there is much interest in these EOI selections and that the deferral of selections will be disappointing for a number of EOI submitters.

I can confirm that the deferral is a temporary measure and Ministry of Business Information and Employment officials will soon provide further advice to my office to assist in making a decision on resuming the selection of Parent Category and SMC EOIs. Any changes made by INZ will be announced on the INZ website: www.immigration.govt.nz.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Faafoi'.

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Immigration