



20 Aug 2020

Julie Mariuzzo

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Ref: DOIA 2021 - 0213

Dear Julie

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

1. *How many applications from the priority queue and the non-priority queue were allocated in May, June and July respectively?*
2. *What is the lodgement date for the oldest SMC application in the non priority queue?*
3. *What is the lodgement date for the oldest SMC application in the priority queue?*
4. *What is the lodgement date for the oldest RFW application in the non priority queue?*
5. *What is the lodgement date for the oldest RFW application in the priority queue?*
6. *What is the proportion of RFW/SMC applications in each queue?*
7. *How many residence applications are there in each queue?*
8. *How many EOIs are there in the pool awaiting selection?*

### **Our response**

Please note that the skilled residence applications processed in the Manukau office are made up of Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Residence from Work (RFW) applications. They are not split into two separate queues based on the application category. Once an application is accepted for processing it is then identified as to whether it meets the prioritisation criteria, or not, and triaged into either the priority or non-priority queue. Therefore the below data contains both SMC and RFW categories.

#### Question 1

*How many applications from the priority queue and the non-priority queue were allocated in May, June and July respectively?*

Please refer to the table below. Allocation occurs weekly and the data is for the week beginning the date quoted. Please note that prior to May 2020 Manukau office did not record the split of priority and non-priority applications, therefore data is only available from 18 May 2020.

Week beginning	Priority applications	Non-priority applications	Total
18 May 2020	264	0	264
25 May 2020	0	0	0*
01 June 2020	35	13	48
08 June 2020	40	13	50

15 June 2020	89	10	99
22 June 2020	228	12	240
29 June 2020	197	33	230
06 July 2020	85	18	122
13 July 2020	130	17	154
20 July 2020	129	25	156
27 July 2020	147	50	199

*\*only re-allocation occurred, no applications were allocated from queues. Re-allocation occurs when an application that had been allocated needs to be re-assigned to another immigration officer due to staff movement.*

#### Question 2

*What is the lodgement date for the oldest SMC application in the non priority queue?*

As of 11 August 2020, the lodgement date for the oldest skilled residence application in the non-priority queue is 21 December 2018.

#### Questions 3

*What is the lodgement date for the oldest SMC application in the priority queue?*

As of 11 August 2020, the lodgement date for the oldest skilled residence application in the priority queue is 5 June 2020.

#### Questions 4

*What is the lodgement date for the oldest RFW application in the non priority queue?*

As explained above, there are no separate queues for SMC and RFW categories. As of 11 August 2020, the lodgement date for the oldest skilled residence application in the non- priority queue is 21 December 2018.

#### Questions 5

*What is the lodgement date for the oldest RFW application in the priority queue*

As explained above, there are no separate queues for SMC and RFW categories. As of 11 August 2020, the lodgement date for the oldest skilled residence application in the priority queue is 5 June 2020.

#### Questions 6

*What is the proportion of RFW/SMC applications in each queue?*

As explained above, the skilled residence applications processed in the Manukau office are made up of SMC and RFW applications. They are not split into two separate queues based on the application category.

I am advised that providing the requested information requires substantial collation. It needs manual validation of 15,011 records to determine the proportion of RFW/SMC applications in each queue.

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. The information requested is held on a large number of individual files. To provide you with copies of the information would

require staff to manually review and analyse each application. It would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Questions 7

*How many residence applications are there in each queue?*

As of 11 August 2020, there are 307 applications in the priority queue and 14,704 applications in the non-priority queue.

Questions 8

*How many EOIs are there in the pool awaiting selection?*

As of 15 August 2020, there are 5,386 Expression of Interest (EOI) in the SMC EOI pool.

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

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

Yours sincerely



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