



21 September 2020

Anatoliy Goryachev

fyi-request-13605-49a69ef8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-0444

Dear Anatoliy Goryachev,

Thank you for your email of 27 August 2020 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

"1) Going through previous FYI responses, I see that you keep posting us with weekly statistics on the allocation numbers for priority and non-priority queues. The latest data we have was for the week commencing 27 July 2020. Therefore, could I please ask you to provide CO (thereafter CO – Case Officer) allocation figures for the following weeks (separately for priority and non-priority queues):

- a) Week commencing 03 August 2020 – Number of priority applications got CO / Number of non-priority applications got CO*
- b) Week commencing 10 August 2020 – Number of priority applications got CO / Number of non-priority applications got CO*
- c) Week commencing 17 August 2020 – Number of priority applications got CO / Number of non-priority applications got CO*
- d) Week commencing 24 August 2020 – Number of priority applications got CO / Number of non-priority applications got CO*

2) What is the lodgement date for the oldest non-priority SMC/RFW application?

3) What is the total number of non-priority applications in SMC/RFW non-priority queue currently awaiting for CO allocation? Also, please provide number of applicants behind these applications.

4) If this is possible - could you please provide breakdown on the number of offshore and onshore applications (applicants) awaiting for allocation in the SMC/RFW non-priority queue.

5) What is the number of priority SMC/RFW applications currently awaiting for officer allocation?

6) Do you process offshore priority SMC applications? Are these applications being prioritized over non-priority SMC/RFW onshore applications?

7) Could you please provide monthly breakdown numbers on how many non-priority SMC/RFW applications/applicants who lodged their applications last year (2019) are waiting for CO allocation:

- a) *January 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- b) *February 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- c) *March 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- d) *April 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- e) *May 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- f) *June 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- g) *July 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- h) *August 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- i) *September 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- j) *October 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- k) *November 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*
- l) *December 2019 - Number of applications waiting for CO allocation / Number of applicants waiting for CO allocation*

8) *When did Immigration New Zealand adopt the policy of application prioritisation and when it was first shared with broad public?*

9) *What is the definition of "reasonable timeframe" for the SMC/RFW applications?*

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 19 November 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.

The length of extension is due to the current situation in New Zealand relating to COVID-19. Resource and capacity has been impacted by the agency working remotely and essential projects relating to the Covid-19 response.

I will respond to your request sooner if I am able to. If you would like to withdraw your request or contact us to re-scope your request, please email Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision to extend the time limit by the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free-phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Carley
Manager Operations Support - Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment