



15 OCT 2020

Dr Renoh Chalakkal

fyi-request-13613-ddab0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1920-0638

Dear Dr Chalakkal

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 received on 17 September 2020 requesting the following:

If my question is not clearly understood, I have rephrased the question in a similar way to the above mentioned DOIA request:

- 1. What is the number of applications that are currently held in the non-priority queue by Immigration New Zealand under the SMC without a CO allocation?*
- 2. Also, from this how many applications are held that the date of lodgement falls on or before the 10th of September 2019?*
- 3. Again from this number of non-priority cases lodged on or before the 10th of September 2019, how many of these applications are noted as onshore applications?*

Our response

I have provided the number of 'accepted' applications rather than 'lodged' applications because not all applications that are lodged are accepted for processing. An example of this is an incomplete application that is returned to the client so the missing information can be provided before it is accepted for processing.

1. The total number of Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) applications in the non-priority queue on 7 October 2020 was 11,468.
2. The total number of SMC applications in the non-priority queue, accepted on or before 10 September 2019, as at 7 October 2020, was 3787.
3. The total number of SMC applications in the onshore non-priority queue, accepted on or before 10 September 2019, as at 7 October 2020, is 3066.

I can also advise that over the last year, demand for residence under the SMC and Residence from Work category (RfW) has risen significantly. In 2018/19 we accepted 12,646 visas in these two categories, and in 2019/20 we accepted 17,058.

INZ's role as a regulator is to process and approve applications in line with immigration instructions and the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) planning range set by the Government of the day. The volume of approved residence applicants has been within the NZRP planning range every year. Further information on the NZRP can be found on the Immigration New Zealand website - [New Zealand Residence Programme](#).

You can find up to date information about SMC and RfW processing times [on our website](#).

I trust you find the information helpful.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact Matt Burden, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support at Matt.Burden@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Hogg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicola Hogg
General Manager - Border & Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
