



20 OCT 2020

Matthew

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Ref: DOIA 2021 - 0488

Dear Matthew

Thank you for your email of 1 September 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*Can I please have a table breaking down the following information for applications lodged every month since Feb 2019*

- *priority applications awaiting case officer*
- *non priority applications awaiting case officer*
- *how many of those are on shore*
- *how many of those are offshore*

*Can I also get a breakdown of the following:*

*Weekly allocation of priority and non priority applications from August 2020*

On 9 September 2020 you clarified that you are requesting information for skilled residence applications, which include Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Residence from Work (RFW).

#### **Our response**

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not have a specific Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) queue but one for skilled residence applications. These applications are SMC and Resident from Work (RFW) and are all processed in the Manukau office. The applications are not split into two separate queues based on the application category.

Visa processing for overseas applicants is still on hold. This is because people who are not New Zealand citizens or residents are unlikely to meet the current entry requirements. INZ is not able to legally grant a visa to people who are unlikely to meet the entry requirements. As such, offshore applications have been separated and are not currently being processed. Processing for offshore applications will resume when the border re-opens.



The New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) Planning Range sets the upper and lower number for residence visa approvals. The previous Planning Range was 50,000 to 60,000 residence approvals from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019. The Government is currently reviewing its approach to the NZRP and is considering replacing the planning range with a more targeted approach that focuses on management of specific residence visa types. In the meantime, INZ will continue to process applications at same volume and with the same level of resourcing as the previous NZRP allowed for, this does have an impact on the number of applications that can be allocated and the timeliness of application processing.

Any updates in regards to the allocation of applications can be found at the following link: [www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-timeframe-information](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-timeframe-information)

### Question 1

*Can I please have a table breaking down the following information for applications lodged every month since Feb 2019*

- *priority applications awaiting case officer*
- *non priority applications awaiting case officer*
- *how many of those are on shore*
- *how many of those are offshore*

Please refer to Table 1 below

Table 1: Skilled residence applications lodged from 1 February 2019 to 30 September 2020 that are waiting to be allocated to an immigration officer, as at 2 October 2020

Month	Offshore non-priority	Onshore Non-priority	Onshore priority
02/2019	116	-	-
03/2019	69	37	-
04/2019	72	467	-
05/2019	87	500	1*
06/2019	76	485	1*
07/2019	134	836	-
08/2019	98	751	-
09/2019	87	676	1*
10/2019	89	792	-
11/2019	95	832	3*
12/2019	85	830	1*
01/2020	94	645	2*
02/2020	118	1060	1*
03/2020	72	1060	2*
04/2020	-	-	-
05/2020	21	100	-
06/2020	126	1720	-

07/2020	67	1228	1*
08/2020	16	229	-
09/2020	37	828	59

\* Please note that some of these applications were initially lodged as non-priority but were subsequently moved to the priority queue during processing due to applicant's change of circumstances.

## Question 2

Can I also get a breakdown of the following:

Weekly allocation of priority and non priority applications from August 2020

Please refer to Table 2 below:

Table 2: Weekly allocation of skilled residence applications from 03/08/2020 to 12/10/2020

Week beginning	Priority applications allocation	Non-priority applications allocation
03/08/2020	154	48
10/08/2020	168	37
17/08/2020	165	4
24/08/2020	116	149
31/08/2020	19	115
07/09/2020	45	177
14/09/2020	77	97
21/09/2020	63	123
28/09/2020	49	110
05/10/2020	58	152
12/10/2020	82	58

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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