



06 OCT 2020

J Jefferson

fyi-request-13639-d11e8e45@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-0489

Dear J Jefferson

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

- *Please could you tell me the total number of SMC residency applications waiting for allocation up to 21 Feb 2020? (date you reply to my OIA)*

You further clarified your request via email on the 7 September 2020 to be the following:

- *I wish to find out the total number of applications awaiting allocation from the oldest application still waiting to be allocated (I think the queue is now at approx mid Feb 2019) - to the 25th February 2020.*

Our response

Over the last couple of years, demand for the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Residence from Work sub-stream (RFW) has risen significantly. This has resulted in longer decision times for applicants.

To better manage the queue of residence applications going forward, in February 2020 Immigration New Zealand (INZ), with the endorsement of the Minister of Immigration at the time, formalised the priority allocation of some SMC and Residence from Work applications for highly paid applicants and applicants with current occupational registration (where registration is required by Immigration Instructions).

This allowed INZ to start allocating older, non-priority applications on a more consistent basis.

Currently INZ is allocating non-priority onshore skilled business applications from mid-March 2019.

As at 15 September 2020, 8019 SMC applications were in the onshore non-priority queue awaiting allocation, where application accepted dates are from 15 February 2019 to 25 February 2020.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Ileini Taloa, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at ileini.taloa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N Hogg'.

Nicola Hogg

General Manager
Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
