



01 OCT 2020

Daniel

fyi-request-13668-05391cf7@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-0528

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

- *How many SMC non-priority application, which submitted before 1st July 2019 now in queue waiting allocation for a case officer?*

You further clarified your request via email on the 11 September 2020 to be the following:

- *I'm after the number of SMC applications (non-priority and on-shore) accepted for processing from 1 Dec 2018 - 1 July 2019 that are currently in queue awaiting allocation.*

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.

As at 15 September 2020, 1774 Skilled Migrant Category applications were in the onshore non-priority queue awaiting allocation, where application accepted dates are from 1st December 2018 to 1st July 2019.

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.taloe@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Hogg', written in a cursive style.

Nicola Hogg

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