



29 OCT 2020

Ranjit

fyi-request-13885-ae842fcf@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-0716

Dear Ranjit

Thank you for your email on 30 September 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

- 1. Number of weekly SMC allocations from 1st September 2020 to date you reply to my request.*
- 2. Number of non-priority on shore applications waiting for allocation between date you reply to my request and 24th May 2019. For example if you reply to my request on 25th October and on that day you allocating applications from 1st May 2019 then please advise how many on shore applications still left for case officer before 24th May 2019.*
- 3. I want to know how many priority SMC and RFW applications were lodged and allocated after 1st Aug 2020.*
- 4. I also want to know that how many EVE requests were approved and applications were allocated.*
- 5. Total number of resident visas approved across all streams after 1st January 2020.*

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 Manukau office. The applications are not split into two separate queues based on the application category. All applications are separated into the stated priorities as per Immigration Instructions A16.1. Therefore the data in response to questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 is for both the SMC and RFW categories.

- 1. Number of weekly SMC allocations from 1st September 2020 to date you reply to my request.**

The number of Skilled Residence applications allocated weekly.

31 August 2020	141
7 September 2020	225
14 September 2020	177
21 September 2020	190
28 September 2020	160
5 October 2020	210
12 October 2020	141
19 October 2020	191
26 October 2020	178

- 2. Number of non-priority on shore applications waiting for allocation between date you reply to my request and 24th May 2019. For example if you reply to my request on 25th October and on that day you allocating applications from 1st May 2019 then please advise how many on shore applications still left for case officer before 24th May 2019.**

As at 20 October 2020 there are 532 onshore non-priority skilled residence applications awaiting allocation where the accepted date is on or before 24 May 2019.

- 3. I want to know how many priority SMC and RFW applications were lodged and allocated after 1st Aug 2020.**

The total number of Skilled Residence applications that were accepted for processing by INZ from 1 August 2020 to 20 October 2020 was 1,888. We are not able to provide you with the number of applications that were allocated from the priority queue without substantial collation as we would have to manually review each application to check whether it originated from the priority queue. As a result we are refusing this part of your request under section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

- 4. I also want to know that how many EVE requests were approved and applications were allocated.**

The number of EVE requests which were approved for applications to be allocated to an Immigration Officer since 1 August 2020 to 7 October 2020 is 31.

- 5. Total number of resident visas approved across all streams after 1st January 2020.**

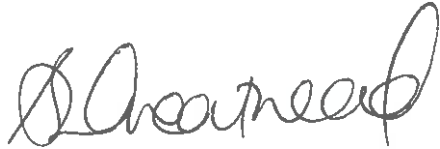
This information has been refused under section 18 (d) of the OIA as the information is publicly available on the INZ website at the following link:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/statistics/statistics-residents-decisions-financial-year>

You have the right to contest the decision to withhold information by seeking an investigation and review of that decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Adam Jones, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at adam.jones@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Greathead', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Greathead
Acting General Manager – Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment