



09 NOV 2020

Ranjit

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

File No: DOIA 2021 – 0799

Dear Ranjit

Thank you for your email on 9 October 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

I want to know how many on shore applications were received across SMC and RFW queue between 01/05/2019 to 24/05/2019 those are waiting allocation to an Immigration Officer.

Our response

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has Skilled Residence queues containing Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Resident from Work (RfW) visa applications that are awaiting allocation to an immigration officer. All applications are separated into the stated priorities as per Immigration Instructions A16.1.

I can advise that as of 21 October 2020, there were 302 Skilled Residence applications held by INZ that were received between 1 May 2019 and 24 May 2019, that are awaiting allocation to an immigration officer, and where the applicants are in New Zealand. This figure captures both non-priority and priority applications, however all of the 302 Skilled Residence applications are in the non-priority queue pending allocation to an immigration officer.

I can advise generally that the New Zealand Residence Program (NZRP) Planning Range sets the upper and lower number for residence visa approvals. The last NZRP ran from 1 July 2018 until 31 December 2019 and included a Planning Range of 50,000 to 60,000 residence approvals.

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. The INZ website remains the best place for up-to-date information on processing timeframes:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/waiting-for-a-visa/how-long-it-takes-to-process-your-visa-application>

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Chung Man Charmaine Ho, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Charmaine.Ho@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

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

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