



23 OCT 2020

Aman Singh

fyi-request-13893-8c11cbf2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-0722

Dear Aman Singh,

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

I just want to know how many applications Onshore SMC been waiting for allocation of immi officer from 15th September 2019 to 5th June 2019

On 6 October 2020, you clarified your question to:

'Sorry for the confusion. I mean to say I want to know how many SMC onshore application are in the queue before 5th June 2019 waiting for allocation of Officers.'

Our response

As at 15 October 2020, there are 822 onshore Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) applications that were lodged before 5 June 2019 and are waiting in the queue to be allocated to an immigration officer.

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. Immigration New Zealand (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

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

Yours sincerely



Nicola Hogg

General Manager – Border and Visa Operations

Immigration New Zealand

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment