



14 December 2020

Daniel

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File No: DOIA 2021 – 0997

Dear Daniel

Thank you for your email on 13 November 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*Total number of SMC non-priority application which submitted before 2nd July 2019 now in queue waiting allocation for a case officer*

#### **Our response**

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has Skilled Residence queues containing Skilled Migrant Category and Resident from Work visa applications that are pending allocation to an immigration officer for assessment. The applications are not separated by type.

I can advise that as of 1 December 2020, INZ held a total of 663 Skilled Residence visas which had been submitted before 2 July 2019, which were non-priority and pending allocation to an immigration officer for assessment. Of those, 459 applications were from applicants who were offshore. As per the priorities stated at Immigration Instructions A16.1, INZ is prioritising residence class visa applications where the applicant is onshore, over those who are offshore. These are therefore held in separate queues.

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



Nicola Hogg  
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