



22 DEC 2020

Satish

fyi-request-14124-889caefc@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021 – 0998

Dear Satish

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

Can you please provide me the number of SMC onshore applications remaining in the queue which are submitted before 17th Aug 2019 in the queue waiting for allocation to a case officer?

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.

As you are aware, priority is given to applicants who have submitted a skilled residence application (SMC or RfW), in New Zealand and where the:

- Application includes a job offer with an hourly rate equivalent to or higher than twice the median wage (currently \$51.00 per hour or an annual salary of \$106,080 or more); or
- Application includes a job offer which requires occupational registration where occupational registration is required by immigration instructions.

The remaining applications are processed in the order they are received.

The INZ website remains the best place for up to date information on processing times.

I am advised that as at 02 December 2020, there were 1,357 SMC onshore applications submitted before 17th August 2019 that were not allocated an immigration officer.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeannie Melville
(Acting) General Manager – Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment