



20 January 2021

M S Medina
fyi-request-14229-bd97561e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1117

Dear M S Medina,

Thank you for your email of 1 December 2020 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

"I would like to request a data on a monthly basis the no. of onshore resident visa applications lodged up to 31.03.2020 that are yet to be allocated to case officers.

I also would like to request a data on the no. of applications that were allocated weekly to case officers from August 2020 to the date you respond to this request showing the lodgement date of each application, categorised as to priority and non-priority queue."

Our Response

We have interpreted your request to be in relation to onshore Skilled Residence visa applications in the priority and non-priority queues. Skilled residence applications include two categories, the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Residence from Work (RFW) category that are both processed in the Manukau office.

Question 1:

Please see Table 1 below which provides the number of onshore SMC and RFW applications accepted for processing up to, and including 31 March 2020, and as at 5 January 2021 are yet to be allocated to a case officer, broken down by the application accepted month.

Table 1:

Month Accepted	Number of applications
Jun-18	0
Aug-18	0
Sep-18	0
Oct-18	0
Nov-18	0
Dec-18	0
Jan-19	0
Feb-19	0
Mar-19	0
Apr-19	0



May-19	0
Jun-19	88
Jul-19	648
Aug-19	571
Sep-19	620
Oct-19	742
Nov-19	867
Dec-19	903
Jan-20	734
Feb-20	971
Mar-20	1,295
Total	7,439

Question 2:

Please see Table 2 below which provides the number of SMC and RFW applications that were allocated weekly to a case officer during the period 3 August 2020 to 5 January 2021, broken down by onshore priority and non-priority queue.

Your request for a further breakdown to include the date of lodgement for each application has been refused under s18(f) of the OIA, because this information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The date of allocation and which queue an application is pulled from is not held in a reportable format, therefore Table 2 is based off internal manual reporting that is limited to the number of applications allocated per week from the priority and non-priority queue. To obtain a further breakdown on the lodgement date for each application would require a staff member to manually check each individual application in the Immigration Application Management system. This would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested but I have concluded, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Table 2:

Date of allocation	Number of applications	Priority Queue	Non-Priority Queue
3-Aug-20	204	154	50
10-Aug-20	208	168	40
17-Aug-20	172	165	7
24-Aug-20	266	116	150
31-Aug-20	141	19	122
7-Sep-20	225	45	180
14-Sep-20	177	77	100
21-Sep-20	190	63	127
28-Sep-20	160	49	111
5-Oct-20	210	58	152
12-Oct-20	141	82	59
19-Oct-20	191	44	147
26-Oct-20	178	8	170

2-Nov-20	191	16	175
9-Nov-20	246	67	179
16-Nov-20	252	68	184
23-Nov-20	252	40	212
30-Nov-20	227	70	157
7-Dec-20	198	52	146
14-Dec-20	228	57	171
21-Dec-20	129	50	79
29 Dec 20	122	0	122
5 Jan 21	155	47	108

Any updates in regards to the allocation of applications can be found via the following link: www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/how-we-prioritise-resident-visa-applications/smc-and-rfw-timeframe-information

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decision to refuse parts of your request. 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 Lautalie Leausa Vaa, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Hogg
 General Manager - Border and Visa Operations
 Immigration New Zealand