



29 January 2021

Petrus Konya Venter
fyi-request-14410-6132b69c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1256

Dear Petrus Konya Venter,

Thank you for your email of 7 January 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

"I have been following some of the online requests and have seen that the current EOI pool numbers are well into the thousands above 3000 if I am not mistaken as per the minister's last response to a request on re opening the EOI pool selection process that it would be reviewed in March 2021. My request has three points.

- 1. If the minister meant during that response that the EOI pool will be opened in March 2021 or only be decided when or if when it will resume again?*
- 2. Would the minister reconsider opening the EOI selection process earlier than March 2021 now that vaccines have approved internationally and have become available?*
- 3. How many expressions of interest are currently in the EOI pool awaiting selection that are onshore and meet the necessary 160 points mark?"*

Our Response

Question 1: If the minister meant during that response that the EOI pool will be opened in March 2021 or only be decided when or if when it will resume again? And;

Question 2: Would the minister reconsider opening the EOI selection process earlier than March 2021 now that vaccines have approved internationally and have become available?

Part 1 and 2 of your request is not considered a request for official information however, I can advise that in October 2020 the selection of Expressions of Interest (EOI) for residence under the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Parent Category was deferred for a further 6 months. The Government will review this decision in March 2021 and Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will continue to reassess when EOI selections can take place as the COVID-19 situation develops.

The continued deferral of these EOI selections allows INZ to focus on processing applications from people who are in New Zealand or those eligible to travel here while border restrictions are in place. The best place to find updated information on the EOI selections is the INZ website which is being updated regularly as decisions are made: www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19.

Question 3: How many expressions of interest are currently in the EOI pool awaiting selection that are onshore and meet the necessary 160 points mark?"

As at 11 January 2021, there were 5,000 EOIs in the SMC pool where the principle applicant is currently onshore and has 160 points or more.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg', is positioned above the typed name.

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