



05 FEB 2021

Prabhjot Kaur  
fyi-request-14481-3bbc08fb@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021 – 1311

Dear Prabhjot Kaur

Thank you for your email on 19 January 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*Can you please tell me when the processing of 2020 will start for SMC non priority My lodgement month for SMC non priority is July 2020?*

#### **Our response**

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not have a specific Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) queue but one for skilled residence applications and includes SMC and Resident from Work (RfW). The applications are not split into two separate queues based on the application category but are separated into the stated priorities as per Immigration Instructions A16.1.

The general instructions contained in A16.1 of the Operational Manual sets out the order of processing for both residence and temporary entry class visa applications. For those applicants who have submitted a skilled residence application, priority is given to applicants 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.

Please note that over the last couple of years, demand for the SMC and RfW has risen significantly. This has resulted in longer decision times for applicants.

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

As at 25 January 2021, the oldest non-priority onshore application in the queue was lodged on 04 July 2019.

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](mailto:Margaret.huang@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Hogg', written in a cursive style.

Nicola Hogg  
General Manager – Border and Visa Operations  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

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