



16 March 2021

Anatoliy Goryachev

By email: fyi-request-14724-cfe65cf7@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-1565

Dear Anatoliy Goryachev

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

- 1) *Could you please share the numbers on how many skilled residence applications were allocated to case officers (separately for priority and non-priority queue) for each of the weeks below:
Week commencing 04 January 2021;
Week commencing 11 January 2021;
Week commencing 18 January 2021;
Week commencing 25 January 2021;
Week commencing 01 February 2021;
Week commencing 08 February 2021;
Week commencing 15 February 2021;
Week commencing 22 February 2021;
Week commencing 01 March 2021;
Week commencing 08 March 2021, etc..
(Please provide numbers up to the date of the reply)*
- 2) *What is the total number of priority / non-priority applications in SMC/RFW queue currently awaiting for CO allocation? Also, please provide number of applicants behind these applications.*
- 3) *Could you please provide data for the number of EOI applications (and number of applicants behind these EOIs) currently sitting in the pool and waiting for the selection.*
- 4) *Also please share if Immigration New Zealand have any plans on resuming EOI for the SMC stream in a foreseeable future.*

Our response

- 1) *Could you please share the numbers on how many skilled residence applications were allocated to case officers (separately for priority and non-priority queue) for each of the weeks [from 4 January 2021 to present].*

Please refer to Table One attached. Auckland moving to Alert Level 3 twice in February had an impact on the processing of skilled residence applications and therefore the capacity of the Immigration Officers processing these categories to be allocated new applications. While all Immigration Officers who work on skilled residence applications were able to continue working during Alert Level 3, it was at differing levels of capacity dependent on infrastructure and personal constraints.

2) *What is the total number of priority / non-priority applications in SMC/RFW queue currently awaiting for CO allocation? Also, please provide number of applicants behind these applications.*

Please refer to Table Two attached for the number of applications and applicants in the skilled residence queues awaiting allocation, as at 23 February 2021.

3) *Could you please provide data for the number of EOI applications (and number of applicants behind these EOIs) currently sitting in the pool and waiting for the selection.*

We have interpreted this question to relate to Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) Expressions of Interest (EOI) given the context of the other questions. As at 23 February 2021 there were 6,902 SMC EOI awaiting selection from the pool.

4) *Also please share if Immigration New Zealand have any plans on resuming EOI for the SMC stream in a foreseeable future.*

This is not a request for Official Information under the OIA but we can provide some general information. In October 2020 the Government continued to defer the EOI selection process for the Skilled Migrant Category for a further 6 months. 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. No decisions have been made at present about resuming selection of SMC EOI. For updates please refer to the INZ website here: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications>.

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

Yours sincerely



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

Table One:

Allocation information relating to skilled residence applications (Skilled Migrant Category – SMC, and Residence from Work – RFW)

Week commencing	Priority skilled residence applications allocated	Non-priority skilled residence applications allocated
4 January 2021	47	104
11 January 2021	16	97
18 January 2021	49	114
25 January 2021	58	92
1 February 2021	41	129
9 February 2021	17	177
16 February 2021	60	17
22 February 2021	21	49
1 March 2021	35	30
8 March 2021	52	0

Table Two:

Number of applications and applicants in the skilled residence queues awaiting allocation, as at 23 February 2021:

	Priority	Non-priority
Applications	69	13,217
Applicants	168	29,983

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