



22 March 2021

Ada Cheung

fyi-request-14746-c6bb7c09@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1603

Dear Ada Cheung,

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

“May I have the up-to-date information about Skilled Resident (included SMC and RFW) ?

1: Number of weekly Skilled Resident allocations from December 2020 to date you reply to my request.

2: Number of Non-priority on-shore applications with lodgement date before 19th October 2019 waiting for allocation from date you reply to my request. Would appreciate if the information could be provided in a monthly manner.”

Our Response

Question One: “Number of weekly Skilled Resident allocations from December 2020 to date you reply to my request”

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has one queue for skilled residence applications. The applications in this queue include Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Resident from Work (RFW), and are not split into two separate queues based on the application category.

Table one below provides the number of skilled residence applications that were allocated from the onshore non priority and priority queue between the periods 07 December 2020 to 08 March 2021.

Allocations of applications to immigration officers occur weekly and the number of applications that are allocated is dependent upon processing capacity. The Government is currently reviewing its approach to the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP) and is considering replacing the planning range with a more targeted approach that focuses on management of specific residence visa types. In the meantime, INZ will continue to process applications at the same volume and with the same level of resourcing as the previous NZRP allowed for. This has an impact on the number of applications that can be allocated and the timeliness of application processing.

Table One:

Allocation Date	Priority Queue	Non Priority Queue
7-Dec-20	52	143
14-Dec-20	57	171
21-Dec-20	50	79
28-Dec-20	0	122

4-Jan-21	47	104
11-Jan-21	16	97
18-Jan-21	49	114
25-Jan-21	58	92
1-Feb-21	41	129
8-Feb-21	17	177
15-Feb-21	60	17
22-Feb-21	21	49
1-Mar-21	35	30
8-Mar-21	52	0

Question Two: “Number of Non-priority on-shore applications with lodgement date before 19th October 2019 waiting for allocation from date you reply to my request. Would appreciate if the information could be provided in a monthly manner.”

Applications that do not meet the criterion for prioritisation are allocated to an immigration officer in the order they are received. Applications however, can be prioritised or deprioritised if an applicant’s circumstances change.

As of 04 March 2021, INZ is allocating:

- Non-prioritised SMC and RFW applications received in August 2019, and
- Prioritised SMC and RFW applications within two weeks of the application joining the priority queue.

Table two below provides the number of unallocated skilled residence applications in the onshore non priority queue as at 04 March 2021, that were accepted for processing before 19 October 2019 (inclusive), broken down by the month the applications were accepted.

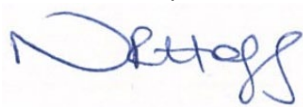
Table Two:

Date Accepted	Number of Applications
Aug-19	448
Sep-19	602
Oct-19	429

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

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