



22 March 2012

Jill Liu

By email: fyi-request-14755-0ade730b@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-1612

Dear Jill Liu

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*Can I request the data of how many SMC onshore applications are unallocated in the queue?
Can you present it by how many priority and non-priority applications each month?*

*Can I request how many applications allocated in 2021? Can you present it by how many
priority and non-priority applications each week start from the first working week in 2021?*

Our response

Can I request the data of how many SMC onshore applications are unallocated in the queue? Can you present it by how many priority and non-priority applications each month?

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) does not have a specific Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) queue but one for skilled residence applications. These applications are SMC and Resident from Work (RFW) and are all processed in the Manukau office. The applications are not split into two separate queues based on the application category.

Please refer to Table One attached which details the number of onshore skilled residence (SMC and RFW) applications in the queue, broken down by priority/non-priority and the month the applications were accepted by INZ.

Can I request how many applications allocated in 2021? Can you present it by how many priority and non-priority applications each week start from the first working week in 2021?

Please refer to Table Two attached. Auckland moving to Alert Level 3 twice in February 2021 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.



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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

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

Table One:

The number of onshore skilled residence (SMC and RFW) applications awaiting allocation, broken down by priority/non-priority and the month the applications were accepted by INZ.

| Month Accepted | Onshore Non Priority | Priority | Total |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|-------|
| August 2019 | 448 | 0 | 448 |
| September 2019 | 603 | 0 | 603 |
| October 2019 | 653 | 1 | 654 |
| November 2019 | 803 | 5 | 808 |
| December 2019 | 801 | 6 | 807 |
| January 2020 | 616 | 1 | 617 |
| February 2020 | 961 | 2 | 963 |
| March 2020 | 971 | 2 | 973 |
| May 2020 | 93 | 0 | 93 |
| June 2020 | 1,619 | 10 | 1,629 |
| July 2020 | 1,176 | 7 | 1,183 |
| August 2020 | 212 | 0 | 212 |
| September 2020 | 742 | 2 | 744 |
| October 2020 | 440 | 1 | 441 |
| November 2020 | 482 | 1 | 483 |
| December 2020 | 280 | 0 | 280 |
| January 2021 | 412 | 4 | 416 |
| February 2021 | 205 | 18 | 223 |
| March 2021 | 14 | 4 | 18 |

Please note as applicants' circumstances change, some non-priority applications may meet the prioritisation criteria (current occupational registration where registration is required by immigration instructions or an hourly rate at or above twice the median wage). Such applications will be moved to the priority queue and allocated within two weeks.

Table Two:

Allocation information relating to skilled residence (SMC and RFW) applications

| 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 |