



12 April 2021

Philip

fyi-request-14920-0fb50c17@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-1794

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your email of 14 March 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

- "1. Can I get information on how many EOI's for Parent Residence are in the pool that were submitted prior to 1st January 2017?*
- 2. Can I get a list of unallocated applications in the pool lodged based on their year and month of submission that were submitted prior to 1 January 2017?*
- 3. Is it possible to know how many applications in pool submitted prior to 1 January 2017 are eligible to the now income criteria?*
- 4. When is the review for commencement of parent residence due?*
- 5. What is the likely timeframe for this visa once resumed?"*

Our Response

Questions four and five is not considered a request for official information however, I can advise that from 01 April 2020 the selection of Expressions of Interest (EOI) for residence under the Parent Category and Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) was deferred until further notice. The deferrals are a temporary measure that allows Immigration New Zealand (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.

INZ will continue to reassess when EOI selections can take place as the COVID-19 situation develops. 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.

As at 23 March 2021, there are a total of 3,226 unallocated Parent Category EOIs in the pool that were accepted before 01 January 2017 (exclusive). The table below provides a breakdown of the EOIs by month they were accepted by INZ.

Month EOI Accepted	Number of EOIs
Jul-12	1
Aug-12	15
Sep-12	6

Oct-12	8
Nov-12	7
Dec-12	4
Jan-13	9
Feb-13	5
Mar-13	5
Apr-13	5
May-13	15
Jun-13	5
Jul-13	7
Aug-13	6
Sep-13	3
Oct-13	11
Nov-13	8
Dec-13	2
Jan-14	6
Feb-14	7
Apr-14	3
May-14	5
Jun-14	7
Jul-14	8
Aug-14	7
Sep-14	4
Oct-14	1
Nov-14	4
Dec-14	4
Jan-15	6
Feb-15	6
Mar-15	7
Apr-15	2
May-15	7
Jun-15	4
Jul-15	9
Aug-15	11
Sep-15	5
Oct-15	6
Nov-15	246
Dec-15	158
Jan-16	224
Feb-16	280
Mar-16	216
Apr-16	255
May-16	265
Jun-16	292
Jul-16	250
Aug-16	277
Sep-16	231
Oct-16	229

Nov-16	44
Dec-16	18
Total	3,226

Unfortunately a further breakdown to show the number of those EOIs that are eligible to the new income criteria, is information that is not held in a reportable format. To provide you this would require a staff member to manually check the declared income on 3,226 individual EOIs. As such we have refused this part of your request under s18(f) of the OIA, because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

This task would remove Ministry staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest would not be served. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time or the ability to charge for the information requested but I have concluded, in both cases, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decision to refuse parts of your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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,



Jeannie Melville
Acting General Manager - Border and Visa Operations
Immigration New Zealand