



20 May 2021

Petrus

[fyi-request-15231-10a04060@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15231-10a04060@requests.fyi.org.nz)

File No: DOIA 2021 – 2119

Dear Petrus

Thank you for your email on 21 April 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

- *When will EOI selections resume as the suspension has now expired?*
- *If no date is provided on when selections will be taking place then when will the announcement be made on when selections will be taking place as the suspension has expired?*
- *Why can't selections for onshore immigrants that is in the EOI pool and currently meet the criteria for SMC and have the funds not take place? Surely this money can help the economy recover.*
- *How many current submissions are there in the EOI pool waiting to be selected that meets the 160 point requirement and please state whether they are onshore or offshore?*
- *How many of the submissions will fall under the priority list when selections start?*

## **Our response**

### ***When will EOI selections resume as the suspension has now expired?***

There is currently no timeframe as to when the Expressions of Interest (EOI) selections for the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) will resume.

### ***If no date is provided on when selections will be taking place then when will the announcement be made on when selections will be taking place as the suspension has expired?***

There is currently no timeframe as to when an announcement will be made.

### ***Why can't selections for onshore immigrants that is in the EOI pool and currently meet the criteria for SMC and have the funds not take place? Surely this money can help the economy recover.***

Under current immigration settings, the selection of SMC EOIs is not prioritised based on whether the potential applicant is inside or outside of New Zealand. INZ understands that people who submitted EOIs from outside of New Zealand did so with an expectation of these being treated the same as EOIs submitted from within New Zealand.

The continued deferral of SMC EOIs allows INZ to focus on processing applications from people who are in New Zealand (this includes SMC residence applications from individuals who are currently in New Zealand); those offshore and exempt from the border restrictions; and those offshore applying for a visa as an exception to the border restrictions.

***How many current submissions are there in the EOI pool waiting to be selected that meets the 160 point requirement and please state whether they are onshore or offshore?***

As of 11 May 2021 there are total 9,115 EOIs in the pool claiming to meet the 160 point requirement.

Of these 8,209 claim to be onshore with 906 claiming to be offshore.

***How many of the submissions will fall under the priority list when selections start?***

Priority processing for skilled residence applications applies to those who earn above \$106,080 per annum or hold employment which requires occupational registration as required in immigration instruction A16.1.

It is only possible for INZ to determine which applications meet the priority criteria when an application for a residence visa has been lodged and accepted.

As of 11 May 2021 there are 2,880 persons who in their EOI have claimed one of the priority criteria.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Adam Jones, Business Advisor, Operations Support, Immigration New Zealand at [adam.jones@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:adam.jones@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Jock Gilray  
Acting General Manager – Border and Visa Operations  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment