



23 April 2021

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Ref: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 26 March 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

*"I am wanting the most up-to-date processing time for the Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa only. In this OIA request I have asked for 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95% and 99%. Last time I asked for a wider range with large increments (10% - 90%, in 10% increments). I understand that the timeframe has changed, and that's great as I would love the most recent figures possible. If it's possible to provide the actual number of applications that the % refer to that would be great too. If that is not possible that is okay."*

### Our Response

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) measure average processing times in calendar days from the time an application is accepted for processing, to when the application has been finalised and completed in the Immigration Application Management System.

Please see table below showing the average calendar days taken to process Talent (Accredited Employer) Residence Visa applications completed in the last 3 months from 08 January 2021 to 07 April 2021 (inclusive). This has been broken down by percentiles and the number of applications these relate to.

Number of applications completed:	65% (231) completed within:	70% (249) completed within:	75% (267) completed within:	80% (285) completed within:	85% (303) completed within:	90% (320) completed within:	95% (338) completed within:	99% (352) completed within:
356	127 days	161 days	196 days	228 days	305 days	393 days	409 days	510 days

Please note that in February 2021, the Auckland region moved into Alert Level 3 twice which had an impact on the processing of skilled residence applications, and the capacity for immigration officers to be allocated new applications. With reduced processing capacity and reduced ability for some staff to access INZ offices during the COVID-19 response, for several weeks the INZ Manukau office had limited numbers of staff processing skilled residence applications from the office and reduced productivity for those working from home.

The time taken to assess an application can vary considerably and is impacted by a number of factors. This can depend on the quality of the supporting documents and whether we require further information or verification of the information provided. Residence applications naturally take longer to



process as there is more at stake and there is greater scrutiny of each application, which means there is a flow-on effect and the allocation of new applications to an immigration officer can take longer.

Any updates in regards to the allocation of skilled residence 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](http://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](mailto:Lautalie.Leausavaa@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg', is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Nicola Hogg  
General Manager - Border and Visa Operations  
Immigration New Zealand