



6 July 2021

Ranvir

By email: fyi-request-15733-f88b8e07@requests.fyi.org.nz

File No: DOIA 2021-2519

Dear Ranvir

Thank you for your email of 10 June 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

- 1. Total number of skill migrant residency pending applications till 12 Dec. 2019 from the date you replied and latest application date accepted from queue for CO.*
- 2. Last 5 years how many applicants get residency from ANZSCO 399211 CHEMICAL PLANT OPERATOR title.*

Our response

- 1. Total number of skill migrant residency pending applications till 12 Dec. 2019 from the date you replied and latest application date accepted from queue for CO.*

As you may be aware, Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Residence from Work (RFW) applications (skilled residence applications) are not split into separate queues based on visa category.

Please see Table 1 below, for the number of skilled residence applications accepted on or before 12 December 2019, that were awaiting allocation to an immigration officer as at 26 June 2021.

Table 1: The total number of skilled residence applications accepted by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) on and before 12 December 2019 broken down by category and month accepted, as at 26 June 2021.

Month Accepted	Residence from Work	Skilled Migrant Category	Total
October 2019	1	27	28
November 2019	63	628	691
December 2019	47	362	409
Total	111	1,017	1,128

As at 5 July 2021, the accepted date of the oldest application in the onshore general (non-priority) skilled residence queue was 23 October 2019. This is the date that all information required for the acceptance of the application was received by INZ.

It is important to note that, skilled residence queue data is not static due to the complex nature of visa processing operations. Applications move between queues and this needs to be taken into account when comparing data over time. The data changes over time for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- Applicants arriving into New Zealand on critical purpose visas result in their applications moving from the offshore queue to one of the onshore queues;
- A change in an applicant's circumstances resulting in their application meeting the priority criteria and being moved to the priority queue;
- Applications being escalated via the Employment Visa Escalation (EVE) process - <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/newsletters/korero/korero-july-2019/employment-visa-escalations-eve>;
- The lodgement of an application may take several days or weeks, depending on the completeness of the application. Applications are back-dated once lodgement requirements are completed which can cause fluctuations in the number of applications accepted in a particular month.

Allocations of skilled residence applications to immigration officers occur weekly and the number of applications that are allocated is dependent upon processing capacity. INZ's role as a regulator is to process and approve applications in line with immigration instructions and the New Zealand Residency Programme (NZRP) planning range set by the Government of the day. The Government is currently reviewing its approach to the NZRP. 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.

Updates in regards to the allocation of applications can be found via the following link: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/waiting-for-a-visa/how-long-it-takes-to-process-your-visa-application/smc-and-rfw-timeframe-information>

2. Last 5 years how many applicants get residency from ANZSCO 399211 CHEMICAL PLANT OPERATOR title.

INZ has granted residence to 21 skilled residence (SMC and RFW) applicants with the occupation Chemical Plant Operator, ANZSCO 399211 in the five years to 26 June 2021.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Anna McLachlan, Senior Business Advisor, Operations Support, INZ at Anna.McLachlan@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



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