



15 July 2021

N Panchal

fyi-request-15846-70761b43@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2021-2617

Dear N Panchal,

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

- “1) Number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications accepted (on-hand) to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.*
- 2) Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications lodged between December 2020 to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others, listed per month.*
- 3) Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE resident visa class applications, discriminated in priority and non-priority, allocated to a Case officer between December 2020 to date.*
- 4) Average processing times for Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visas after the new prioritization criteria came into effect on February 24th 2020.”*

Our Response

Question One: “Number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications accepted (on-hand) to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others.”

As you may be aware, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has one queue for skilled residence applications. The applications in this queue include Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Resident from Work (RFW), and are not split into two separate queues based on the application category.

Please refer to Table One in Appendix A which provides the total number of SMC and RFW applications in the onshore non-priority queue as at 29 June 2021, broken down by visa type.

Question Two: “Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE non-priority resident class visa applications lodged between December 2020 to date discriminated in Skilled Migrant Category, Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visa and Others, listed per month.”

Please refer to Table Two in Appendix which provides the number of SMC and RFW applications in the onshore non-priority queues as at 29 June 2021, that were accepted for processing by INZ from 01 December 2020 to 29 June 2021 (inclusive). This has been broken down by the accepted month and visa type.

Question Three: “Monthly list with number of ON-SHORE resident visa class applications, discriminated in priority and non-priority, allocated to a Case officer between December 2020 to date.”

Please refer to Table Three in Appendix A which provides the number of skilled residence applications that were allocated from the onshore non priority and priority queues, between the weeks 01 December 2020 to 12 July 2021.

Question Four: “Average processing times for Talent (Accredited Employer) Resident Visas after the new prioritization criteria came into effect on February 24th 2020.”

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 refer to Table Four in Appendix A which provides the average calendar days taken to process Talent (Accredited Employer) Residence Visa applications completed in the last three months from 24 February 2020 to 29 June 2021 (inclusive).

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,



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

APPENDIX A

Table One: The total number of Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and Residence from Work (RFW) applications in the onshore non-priority queue as at 29 June 2021, broken down by visa type.

Visa Type	Number of applications
Skilled Migrant Category	5,466
Residence from Work, Talent - Accredited Employer	4,418
Residence from Work, South Island Contribution	591
Residence from Work, Long Term Skill Shortage List Occupation	398
Residence from Work, Religious Worker	97
Residence from Work, Talent - Sports	12
Residence from Work, Talent - Arts and Culture	11
Total	10,993

Table Two: The number of SMC and RFW applications in the onshore non-priority queues as at 29 June 2021, that were accepted for processing by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) from 01 December 2020 to 29 June 2021 (inclusive). This has been broken down by the accepted month and visa type.

Please note that figures of five or fewer have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons. Where information is withheld under section 9, I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

Month Accepted	RFW, Long Term Skill Shortage List Occupation	RFW, Religious Worker	RFW, South Island Contribution	RFW, Talent - Accredited Employer	RFW, Talent - Arts and Culture	RFW, Talent - Sports	Skilled Migrant Category
Dec-20	13	<=5	10	203	<=5	<=5	38
Jan-21	25	6	11	310	0	<=5	34
Feb-21	10	<=5	<=5	168	0	0	<=5
Mar-21	25	<=5	8	330	0	<=5	0
Apr-21	43	7	<=5	457	0	<=5	0
May-21	27	<=5	<=5	442	0	0	0
Jun-21	27	<=5	<=5	382	0	<=5	0

Table Three: The number of skilled residence applications that were allocated from the onshore non priority and priority queues, between the weeks 01 December 2020 to 12 July 2021.

Please note that allocations of applications to immigration officers occur weekly and the number of applications that are allocated is dependent upon processing capacity. The Government is currently reviewing its approach to the New Zealand Residence Programme (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.

Allocation week	Priority Queue	Non Priority Queue
1-Dec-20	52	143
14-Dec-20	57	171
21-Dec-20	50	79
28-Dec-20	0	122
4-Jan-21	47	104
11-Jan-21	16	97
18-Jan-21	49	114
25-Jan-21	58	92
1-Feb-21	41	129
8-Feb-21	17	177
15-Feb-21	60	17
22-Feb-21	21	49
1-Mar-21	35	30
8-Mar-21	52	0
15-Mar-21	73	49
22-Mar-21	16	118
29-Mar-21	26	80
5-Apr-21	47	20
12-Apr-21	37	31
19-Apr-21	79	4
26-Apr-21	45	39
3-May-21	41	46
10-May-21	69	83
17-May-21	68	101
24-May-21	57	197
31-May-21	43	150
07-Jun-21	74	170
14-Jun-21	54	150
21-Jun-21	63	271
28-Jun-21	55	131
5-Jul-21	40	47
12-Jul-21	31	61

Table Four: The average calendar days taken to process Talent (Accredited Employer) Residence Visa applications completed in the last three months from 24 February 2020 to 29 June 2021 (inclusive).

Please note that 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.

Date intervals	50% completed within:	75% completed within:	90% completed within:
24 Feb 20 – 30 Jun 20	136 days	174 days	228 days
01 Jul 20 – 30 Sep 20	146 days	205 days	263 days
01 Oct 20 – 31 Dec 20	63 days	180 days	309 days
01 Jan 21 – 31 Mar 21	74 days	187 days	392 days
01 Apr 21 – 30 Jun 21	68 days	176 days	347 days