



Paul Hallett
fyi-request-16404-ef7822a0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 2122-0377

Dear Paul Hallett,

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2021 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

"1) Total number of ONSHORE, PRIORITY talent (accredited employer) resident visa applications received for each month from August 2020 to August 2021.

2) The average time (in days) for an application in the ONSHORE, PRIORITY talent (accredited employer) resident visa applications to be granted, for each month from August 2020 to August 2021.

3) The number of applications in the ONSHORE, PRIORITY talent (accredited employer) resident visa applications that are not finalized after 6 months (168 days) from the date they were submitted, for each month from March 2020 to March 2021.

4) Confirmation on the current criteria to be accepted in the PRIORITY queue for talent (accredited employer) resident visa applicants."

Our Response

Question One to Three:

Please find Tables 1-3 attached in appendix one in response to questions 1-3 respectively. Note that figures of 5 and fewer have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Question Four:

The criteria for prioritisation of Residence from Work talent accredited employer visas is available on the Immigration New Zealand website. [Skilled Migrant Category and Residence from Work processing times | Immigration New Zealand](#)

The Employment Visa Escalation process is also available to those applicants who meet the criteria which allows their application to be allocated to an immigration officer with urgency. [Employment Visa Escalations \(EVE\) | Immigration New Zealand](#)

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact, Immigration New Zealand at INZOIAs@mbie.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Hogg', with a stylized, cursive script.

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

Appendix One

Table One

In response to question one, please find below the total Residence from Work Accredited employer applications in the Onshore Priority queue as at 1 September 2021 where the applications were accepted between 1 August 2020 to 31 August 2021.

Month accepted	Total applications
August 2020	0
September 2020	<=5
October 2020	<=5
November 2020	0
December 2020	<=5
January 2021	<=5
February 2020	0
March 2021	<=5
April 2021	<=5
May 2021	0
June 2021	<=5
July 2021	<=5
August 2021	21

Table Two

In response to question two, please find below the processing timeframes for Residence from Work Accredited employer visa applications. Immigration New Zealand 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 the table below showing the average calendar days taken to process Talent (Accredited Employer) Residence Visa applications completed in the last 3 months from 01 August 2020 to 01 August 2021 (inclusive).

Month Completed	50% of applications completed within (Days)	75% of applications completed within (Days)	90% of applications completed within (Days)
August 2020 – October 2020	86	162	290
September 2020 – November 2020	70	154	292
October 2020 – December 2020	62	172	304
November 202 – January 2021	60	157	292
December 2020 – February 2021	62	135	277
January 2021 – March 2021	73	186	392
February 2021 – April 2021	78	205	399
March 2021 – May 2021	74	193	398
April 2021 – June 2021	69	177	346
May 2021 – July 2021	66	162	348
June 2021 – August 2021	65	167	345

Table Three

In response to question three, please find below the total number of Residence from Work (Accredited Employer) visa applications in the onshore priority queue as at 1 September 2021 where they were accepted for processing between 1 March 2020 to 17 March 2021, please note that we do not hold any data for February 2021.

Month accepted	Total
March 2020	<=5
April 2020	0
May 2020	0
June 2020	<=5
July 2020	0
August 2020	0
September 2020	<=5
October 2020	<=5
November 2020	0
December 2020	<=5
January 2021	<=5
February 2021	0
March 2021	<=5