



22 September 2022

Aulia Sastra Hidayat
fyi-request-20553-1369834f@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2223-0533

Dear Aulia

Thank you for your email of 14 September 2022 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

"I would like to request information regarding what the rationality that Immigration NZ uses to determine who they would like to assess for One-Off Resident Visa 2021 and who they want to still wait for the queue?"

Previously, Immigration NZ announced that they would prioritise applicants who applied during first month of opening of phase 2. However, it seems now that they don't. Several applicants who don't apply during the first month reportedly already got their decision. Meanwhile many first-month applicants are still waiting to get assessed."

Our response

The processing of the 2021 Resident Visa applications is in accordance with the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) instructions A16.1 and A16.3 which can be found in the following links:

www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#44854.htm

www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual/#76822.htm

Phase 2 applications are released for processing in order of the principal applicant's current visa expiry date as at the time of their 2021 Resident Visa application. It does not determine when an application will be decided. The time and order of processing applications that are released will depend on a number of factors, including how long it takes to complete each processing task; if there are manual assessment activities required; and/or if we are waiting on information from an applicant, before a final assessment and decision can be made.

The allocation of an application to an immigration officer does not occur in the enhanced Immigration Online system. Therefore, the release of an application within the system is not an indicator that the application is under assessment. A number of processing activities now occur on an application before the application goes to an immigration officer to complete a final assessment and make a decision on the application.

Immigration New Zealand are committed to processing 2021 Resident Visa applications as quickly as possible. It is expected the majority of applications will be processed within 18 months, with most being processed much faster.



The Immigration New Zealand website contains regular updates on the processing of the 2021 Resident Visa and this information can be found at the below link:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/waiting-for-a-visa/how-long-it-takes-to-process-your-visa-application/2021-resident-visa-processing-times>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the Ministry's response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Smidt
Head of 2021 Resident Visa
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment