



26 NOV 2020

Ranjit Singh Toor

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Ref: DOIA 2021-0961

Dear Mr Toor

Thank you for your email of 30 October 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

1. *I am writing to request a fortnightly breakdown of the number of onshore applications that were submitted, lodged and are currently in the non-priority queue under the SMC between the following dates and periods:*
  - 15.04.2019 - 30.04.2019 (inclusive)
  - 01.05.2019 - 15.05.2019 (inclusive)
  - 16.05.2019- 23.05.2019 (inclusive)
2. *I also would like to request a weekly breakdown of the number of applications in the non-priority queue under the SMC that has been allocated to a case officer from 19.10.2020, up until the date you respond to this request. Please also answer how many applications were approved for EVE and how many priority applications were allocated since 19.10.2020, up until the date you respond to this request (Weekly numbers please).*
3. *What time period during Christmas and New year Immigration New Zealand's Manukau branch will be closed for processing SMC?*
4. *How many Immigration officers are currently working on SMC category and what is there case load? Is there any more officers getting trained to counter this backlog?*

**Our response**

As you have been advised in our responses to your previous requests, the queue of skilled residence applications includes the Skilled Migrant category (SMC) and the Residence from Work (RFW) category. They are not split into two separate queues based on the application category. As such any data provided is for skilled residence.

Question 1

*Fortnightly breakdown of the number of onshore applications that were submitted, lodged and are currently in the non-priority queue under the SMC between the following dates and periods*

Total number of Skilled Residence applications that are currently in the (onshore) non-priority queue and submitted during the below time periods as of 18 November 2020.

Time Period	Total
15 April - 30 April 2019	0
1 May 2019 – 15 May 2019	0
16 May 2019 – 23 May 2019	2

Question 2

*Weekly breakdown of the number of applications in the non-priority queue under the SMC that has been allocated to a case officer from 19.10.2020; how many applications were approved for EVE and how many priority applications were allocated since 19.10.2020*

Weekly allocations of Skilled Residence from 19 October 2020

Week beginning	Priority	Non-Priority (onshore)	EVE*
19 October 2020	44	147	0
26 October 2020	8	169	1
2 November 2020	16	175	0
9 November 2020	67	172	7
16 November 2020	68	184	0
23 November 2020	40	205	7

\*Requests approved via the Employment Visa Escalation process for urgent allocation

Questions 3

*What time period during Christmas and New year Immigration New Zealand's Manukau branch will be closed for processing SMC?*

Immigration New Zealand (INZ) will be closed on the statutory public holiday days over the Christmas period. However, for the safety and wellbeing of all staff, INZ encourages staff to take a break over the extended Christmas and school holiday period.

Question 4

*How many Immigration officers are currently working on SMC category and what is there case load? Is there any more officers getting trained to counter this backlog?*

There are currently 71 staff processing skilled residence applications and on average a case load is approximately 25 applications but can range from 17 to 35. The variance is dependent upon the complexity of applications and an immigration officer's experience.

In regards to your question about training, this is not a request for official information. INZ is resourced in line with the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP), not in line with the number of residence applications received. The Government is currently reviewing its approach to the NZRP and is considering replacing the planning range with a more targeted approach that focuses on management of specific residence visa types. 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.

I trust you find the information helpful.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact Penny Hazlett, Senior Business Advisor [penny.hazlett@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:penny.hazlett@mbie.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



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