

Freedom of Information Request FA 21/07/01036

Questions:

According to the document (FOI Request FA 21/04/000891) release on May 20, 2021, the department is prioritising the Subclass 190 applications who meet the prioritisation requirements.

1. How does an applicant apply for priority processing? What is the procedure, and what are the documents required?
2. How do you define 'Urgent need to travel'?
3. How many offshore applications were prioritised since September 2020 based on the ground of being immediate family member of Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident and providing critical or specialist skills respectively?
4. What does 'Reasonable Timeframes' mean in Response 3 of the Document?

Caveats:

- *This information is provided for the specific purpose of this request. Any other use of the information provided will require consideration and clearance by Data Division, and a separate request should be made to s. 22(1)(a)(ii)*
- *It is the responsibility of the area providing Department of Home Affairs information to external stakeholders to ensure that the disclosure is in accordance with the ABF Act, Australian Privacy Principles or other relevant legislation.*

Response:

1 and 2. Information on the Department's skilled visa processing priorities is available at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/skilled-visa-processing-priorities>

Applicants do not need to apply for priority processing. Applications will be prioritised according to the guidelines outlined at the webpage above, based on the information provided in the application.

3. On 1 September [2021], two new visa processing Directions were issued pursuant to section 499 of the *Migration Act 1948*, specifying prioritisation of Skilled visas. All subclass 190 visa applications have been prioritised according to these guidelines since they were issued. We do not have data available on the specific criteria against which each individual application was prioritised.

4. Circumstances that affect processing times include application completeness, applicant responses to requests for additional information, and the length of time required to perform necessary checks on supporting information. Other circumstances, such as how long it takes to receive information from external agencies (for example, relating to health, character and national security requirements) are outside of the Department's control.

Applications which fall within the guidelines for prioritisation as listed above will experience faster processing times.