



To: asylum applicant

Subject: deciding asylum cases

Date: 15 July, 2020

Dear Sir / Madam,

If you are applying for asylum in the Netherlands, you want to know where you stand soon. At the moment, asylum seekers [sometimes unfortunately wait a long time for a decision](#). You may find that asylum seekers who have applied for asylum after you, namely after 1 April 2020, receive a decision sooner. Here we explain how this can happen.

You will still receive an invitation for an interview this year

Unfortunately, we still cannot let you know exactly when it will be your turn. However, you should receive an invitation to an interview with the IND by the end of December 2020 at the latest. Below you can find out why we cannot tell you when it will be your turn.

The IND is now deciding on asylum applications in a different order

Usually, the IND processes applications in date order of the asylum application. This means that the first person to apply for asylum is usually also the first to receive a decision. The IND is no longer following this order. This is because the IND has a backlog of more than 14,000 asylum cases.

Two separate teams are deciding on different asylum cases

The IND has divided the asylum cases into two groups, as directed by the State Secretary:

1. *Asylum applied for before 1 April*

A separate team (Penalties Task Force) is deciding on this group of 14,000 asylum applications. The aim is for the Penalties Task Force to process this group of asylum applications before 1 January 2021.

2. *Asylum applied for after 1 April*

The IND must decide on these asylum applications on time. On time means within the legal decision period. This is the period within which the IND legally has to decide on an asylum application.

Someone who applies later for asylum may come first

There are many different IND staff working on the processing of asylum applications in these two groups. This means that they have no influence on which asylum seeker has an interview or receives a decision first. As a result, it is possible that someone who has applied for or will apply for asylum after you, may come before you.

Yours sincerely,

Immigration and Naturalisation Service