



1 May 2011

Joshua Grainger  
[fyi-request-146-ae834ba1@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-146-ae834ba1@requests.fyi.org.nz)

File No: 12/01912

Dear Mr Grainger

I am writing further to the Department's letter of 27 April 2012, in relation to your official information request dated 12 April 2012 requesting:

*all papers, correspondence, emails, memos, proposals, or other information related to plans to deal with "boat people". I am interested in anything that spells out what plans have been put developed, and the background to how these plans were arrived at, including any correspondence with third party agencies, Ministers, or other government departments..*

The Department is transferring part of your request to the Minister of Immigration in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982, specifically the aspect of your request which relates to all material sent to or from the Minister's office.

Further correspondence on that aspect of your request will therefore come to you from the Minister of Immigration. Please note that the time limit for responding will be 20 working days from when the Minister of Immigration receives this transfer from us.

In respect of your request as it relates to information owned or held by the Department of Labour, and because of the scope of information covered by your request, it may be necessary to impose a charge for making the requested information available. The Department's charging details are set out below:

- The first hour spent on a request is always free-of-charge. Subsequent time is charged at \$38 incl GST per half-hour (or part thereof), irrespective of the seniority of the staff handling the request.
- The first 20 pages of photocopied material are free of charge. Subsequent pages are charged at \$0.20 incl GST per page.

Prior to the Department undertaking a formal estimate of the amount of the charge, you may wish to consider refining the scope of your request. The

Department could for example provide you with indicative papers covering off the things that you have expressed interest in, rather than the full files and all e-mails.

If you could advise if you wish to refine your request (and what that would be) or not, through to the email address [OIA.GEMS@dol.govt.nz](mailto:OIA.GEMS@dol.govt.nz) then further work could be undertaken on your request.

Should you not wish to refine your request, the Department will write to you again with formal estimate of the likely charges.

In addition, if your request remains with its current scope, then the timeframe for answering your request would need to be extended from the date of that notification under section 15(a) of the Act:

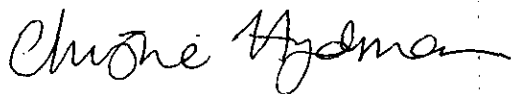
15A (a) The request is for a large quantity of official information or necessitates a search through a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit (20 working days) would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the department or the Minister of the Crown or the organisation.

For your information, I have also attached a copy of a recent press release by the Minister of Immigration which relates to the subject matter of your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsmen  
PO Box 10-152  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely



Christine Hyndman  
Manager, Immigration Policy  
for Secretary of Labour

## **Hon Nathan Guy**

**Minister of Immigration**



30 April 2012

**Media Statement**

### **EMBARGOED UNTIL 4PM**

## **New measures to deter people smugglers announced**

Measures are being introduced to deter a mass arrival of potentially illegal migrants into New Zealand, Immigration Minister Nathan Guy has announced today.

“An amendment to the Immigration Act introduced into Parliament today contains strong measures to deter people smuggling, making New Zealand a less desirable target,” says Mr Guy.

“The amendments will enable a mass arrival to be detained under a group warrant, rather than under individual warrants as currently happens with asylum seekers.

“This means Immigration New Zealand will be able to focus on managing immediate risks, rather than being tied up in paperwork and clogging up the courts.

“A mass arrival would likely include people whose identities are unknown or in doubt, so it is necessary to use detention to manage the security risks.

“The recent events in Darwin show that New Zealand is a target for dangerous and illegal mass arrivals by boat. We need to be prepared.”

Other policy changes meant that a claimant’s refugee status will be reassessed three years after it is first determined, with permanent residence not granted unless this reassessment is approved.

Family reunification rules will also be restricted, so that those who do gain residence after three years can sponsor their immediate family members to join them in New Zealand, but not their extended family members.

“There are appropriate channels for genuine refugees to use. We cannot start accepting boat loads of people – we need to deter them before they take to sea.

“This legislation is not about punishing people with a genuine claim for refugee status. It’s about sending a strong message that queue jumpers won’t be tolerated, and people smugglers will not be rewarded.”

Mr Guy says New Zealand remains committed to fulfilling its international good citizen obligations by accepting an annual quota of up to 750 UNHCR-mandated refugees.

**Media contact: Phil Rennie 021 405 443**