



29 June 2012

Joshua Grainger  
fyi-request-146-ae834ba1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Joshua Grainger

I am responding to your request of 12 April 2012 for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for:

*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.*

On 4 May 2012, you subsequently refined your request, writing:

*I was wondering if my request would be confined enough to avoid a charging provision if (in order of preference):*

- a) If only the titles or subjects or reports, emails, or correspondence was released, so that I could pick and choose those which seem most relevant to me.*
- b) I did not ask for internal emails, relating to this subject, only rather internal memos, papers, and other such documents (but including emails with people outside of the Department)*
- c) If only correspondence with those outside of the Department was included in my request.*

The information you have requested is substantial in scope. I note that you have sought to refine the scope by limiting your request to titles of documents, emails and correspondence with those outside of the Department.

In this case, I do not consider that your narrower request would reduce the workload required to collate all of the information you have requested on the plans and background to the plans for dealing with "boat people". On this basis, I am only releasing the titles of internal documents that set out the *plans* for dealing with "boat people" (see below).

No.	Date	Type	Title
1	03/12	Report	Refugee Status Branch, Mass Arrival by Sea: Operations Plan
2	03/12	Chart	Refugee Status Branch, Process Plan

No.	Date	Type	Title
3	04/12	Report	Mass Arrival of Illegal Migrants: Compliance Operation Branch Response Plan (including six appendices)
4	04/12	Report	Refugee Quota Branch, Mass Arrival by Sea: Operations Plan
5	19/04/12	Report	Mass Arrival of Potentially Illegal Immigrants: Operational Response Plan
6	27/04/12	Report	Communications Plan: People Smuggling Measures
7	05/12	Report	Refugee Quota Branch, Mass Arrival by Sea: Quota Placement Operations Plan
8	11/05/12	Memo	Notional Response Plan – Biometric Capture in a Marine Mass Arrival Situation
9	No date	Report	Mass Arrivals Public Information and Media Management Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
10	No date	Report	Refugee Quota Branch, Detention Manual
11	No date	Report	Draft MOU between DoL and various agencies to support open immigration detention in the event of a mass arrival

I am refusing your request for the titles of internal documents that set out the *background* to the plans for dealing with “boat people”. I am also refusing your request for the titles of emails between the Department and people outside of the Department. These aspects of your request are being refused under section 18(f) of the Act, on the basis that the response would require substantial collation and research. If you would like to request further information on this topic, I would invite you to submit a new request.

You have also requested correspondence (which would exclude emails) with those outside of the Department on the plans and background to the plans for dealing with “boat people”. The information you have requested does not exist. On this basis, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act.

You have the right to contest the decision to refuse parts of your request by seeking an investigation and review of that decision by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsmen  
P O Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, you are encouraged to contact Christine Hyndman, Manager – Immigration Policy at [christine.hyndman@dol.govt.nz](mailto:christine.hyndman@dol.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

Michael Papesch  
General Manager, Labour and Immigration Policy  
for Secretary of Labour