

26 August 2014

M Stephens
BY EMAIL - fyi-request-1630-f076e023@requests.fyi.org.nz

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 5045
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

Dear M Stephens

Thank you for your email requesting, under the Official Information Act:

"All briefing for meetings with the Minister of Immigration in the last eighteen months."

Enclosed are copies of the documents relevant to your request. Some portions of these papers have been withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act (noted in the margins of the documents): 6(a), to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government; 6(b)(i), to avoid prejudicing the entrusting of information to the New Zealand Government on a basis of confidence by the Government of another country; 9(2)(g)(i), to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by Departments; and 9(2)(j), to enable a Minister or any Department holding the information to carry on negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage.

Two documents that were supplementary to the main briefings and are thus subject to your request have been fully withheld. One of those documents, entitled *Uptake of WHSs [Working Holiday Schemes] as at 31 March 2014*, has been withheld under section 6(a) of the Act, while the other document, which is only in draft form, has been withheld under both sections 6(a) and 9(2)(g)(i).

Under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review the withholding of information.

Yours sincerely



Nick Markwell
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Offshore Visa Processing (30/11/2012)

Briefing for call

Caller details

NAME Hon Nathan Guy
 ROLE Minister of Immigration
 CALL DETAILS 3 December 2012

Background

MFAT's overseas posts that previously processed visa applications on behalf of Immigration New Zealand (INZ) are transitioning out of that role. INZ is either taking over the functions through their branches or through Visa Application Centres (VACs) run on behalf of INZ by trusted agents.

2. Messages in the form of Third Person Notes, posters, email auto-replies, website information, and telephone scripts, have been distributed to Posts to enable them to cover off the various channels applicants use to get information on lodging visa applications for New Zealand.

3. The shift from MFAT posts to INZ branches and VACs has already occurred throughout Asia, in the Pacific (Port Moresby, Port Vila, Honiara, Noumea, Niue, Rarotonga), Asia (Ha Noi, Seoul, Tokyo and NZCIO Taipei), the Middle East (Cairo), and the Americas (Washington, Los Angeles, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Brasilia). The process will be complete when Posts in Western Europe (Rome, Brussels, Paris, Berlin) cease receiving visa applications on 10 December.

4.

•

•

•

In the interim German applicants who currently send visa applications to MFAT Berlin will have the option of continuing to do so by either posting, or submitting in person, their application to a "visa application drop box" located at the New Zealand Embassy in Berlin (the Embassy). The Embassy will courier the applications daily to the London VAC. INZ will bear the courier cost of this interim arrangement. Applicants may also choose to send their applications directly to the London VAC if they wish to do so.

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

[Document ID]

- Americas: INZ's Washington VAC began operating on 27 November, and now receives all visa applications from South America, the United States (although applicants on the west coast can send their applications to the INZ office in Los Angeles, which is collocated with the Los Angeles Consulate General), Canada, and the Caribbean (barring Cuba, which is now being handled out of London).

6(a)

6(a)

5.

6(a)

6.

6(a)

The meeting was attended by representatives of the secondary school and English language sectors.

6(a)

7.

-
-
-
-
-
-

6(a)

- 8. INZ outlined the context for the visa processing changes and provided assurance that application processing timeliness would be maintained, if not improved.

6(a)

9.

6(a)

10.

6(a)

6(a)

Mary-Anne Crompton & Rupert Holborow
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

[Document ID]

Briefing for Minister McCully meeting with Minister of Immigration (24/03/2013)

Review of Immigration Profiling Branch (IPB)

- MBIE has developed a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed review of the IPB and submitted it to the Minister of Immigration (on Monday 6 May) for his feedback/approval. A copy should be passed to you by Minister Woodhouse shortly (in the meantime, we have provided your office with a copy).

•

-
-
-

•

- As a first step more targeted profiles have been developed by MBIE.

These adjustments could be made with the approval of ODESC (as Cabinet approval is not required). Further adjustments could be made as part of the review process.

- Ensuring that the review is completed in a timely fashion will be important. MBIE has indicated that it is aiming for Cabinet decisions to be taken on the review by first quarter 2014.

•

•

•

•

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

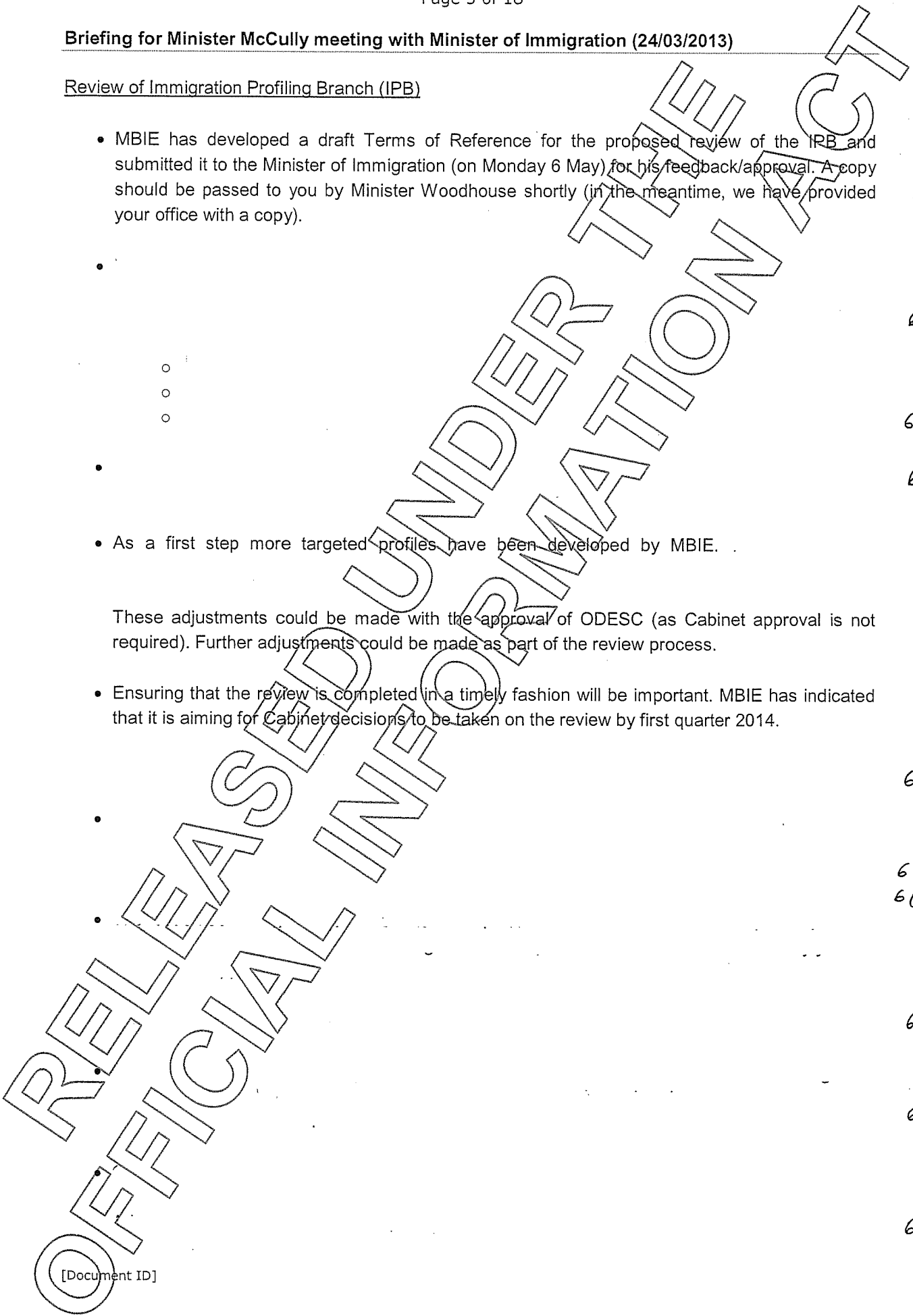
6(a),
6(b)(i)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

[Document ID]



OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

•

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

- A copy should be passed to you by Minister Woodhouse in due course. In the meantime we have provided the submission to your office for your Tuesday meeting.

•

The latter includes strengthening pre-visa screening and selection of scholarship applicants.

6(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

•

6(a)

•

6(a)

•

•

6(a)

6(a)

Trafficking in Persons

- The US office for Trafficking in Person's is currently preparing the first draft of New Zealand's report. The final is due to be released in June 2013.

6(b)(i)
6(a)

... Ministry of

6(a)

Justice is working on legislative reform to expand New Zealand's anti-trafficking legal framework, although the legislative timetable means this won't be in place before the publication of the 2013 report. The legislative improvements are to be included in the Organised Crime Bill scheduled to be introduced into Parliament later this year. This reform will improve the ability of New Zealand police to prosecute cases of trafficking in NZ. MBIE officials lead the Inter-Agency Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and it will be important to ensure that this work progresses in a timely fashion.

- MBIE is also undertaking work to address the issues surrounding the poor treatment of some foreign fishing crews, review conditions for international students working in New Zealand; and provide training for NGO's to support victims of trafficking.

- As this issue progresses, it will be essential that our messaging is consistent, and that all parts of the New Zealand Government are speaking with one voice. Increased efforts to engage more formally with stakeholders will also help the New Zealand messaging.

Refugee Quota Paper

- A draft Cabinet paper was provided to Ministers on 30 April with a request for feedback by 13 May. Your meeting with Minister Woodhouse provides an opportunity to discuss that feedback.
- The draft paper covers off the need to get Cabinet approval on (i) the size, regional balance, and protection priorities for the Refugee Quota Programme for the next three years, and; (ii) confirmation that New Zealand will resettle up to 150 transferees annually from Australia (as agreed by Prime Ministers).
- The draft paper confirms that the 150 from Australia will be incorporated into the existing 750 quota, as agreed at the last meeting with the Minister of Immigration.
- At that meeting, Ministers also discussed the family-link criterion. The draft paper reflects the Minister of Immigration's view that priority should be given to resettling family-linked refugees, but with unfilled places being filled at the discretion of Ministers (para 27 of the draft paper).
- The draft paper also notes that the use by New Zealand of Australia's offshore processing centres remains a future option.

Mass Arrival in Western Australia

[Document ID]

6(b)(i),
6(b)(i)
6(b)(i),
6(a)

- On 9 April a boat containing 66 irregular Sri Lankan migrants arrived in Geraldton, Western Australia. The boat's intended destination was New Zealand. All passengers are either being processed within the Australian system or have been returned to Sri Lanka.

-

- The incident highlights that irregular migrants have an interest in arriving in New Zealand. It also highlights, however, just how difficult it is to achieve that goal, given the distance, sea conditions,

-

Process is another area where we can provide support.

The Bali

Officials are developing ideas for further support, including (i) that we host a regional workshop on the prevention of maritime mass arrivals and (ii) that we provide funding to support a staff member in the Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO) in Bangkok.

Labour Mobility with the Pacific

- Pacific Island countries continue to push hard for increased labour mobility in the context of PACER Plus negotiations towards a regional trade and economic development agreement. They have identified their interests as: establishing legal certainty around the continuation of the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme (and the equivalent Australian scheme); increasing the RSE cap (currently set at 8,000) and extending its scope to other sectors including healthcare, tourism and construction; incentivising demand amongst New Zealand (and Australian) employers for Pacific Island workers; and strengthening the labour supply capacity of Pacific Island countries.

-

- Consultation with New Zealand industry and relevant stakeholders in the Pacific is underway with a view to providing Ministers with advice on options for engaging Samoan and other Pacific trades workers in New Zealand, including in the context of the Canterbury rebuild.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

- MBIE has recently (13 April) submitted to Minister Woodhouse an update on improving uptake of the Samoan Quota and Pacific Access Category.

RELEASSED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

9(2)(g)(i)

[Document ID]

Briefing: MFA-Moi Meeting (23/10/2013)

Working Holiday Schemes

Issue

•

9(2)(j)
6(a)

•

9(2)(j)

•

6(a)

The Ask

•

9(2)(j)

•

9(2)(g)(i)

•

9(2)(g)(i)
6(a)

MBIE's Position

•

9(2)(g)(i)

•

9(2)(g)(i)

Visa Waivers and Processing Issues

Issue

•

9(2)(g)(i)
6(a)

•

6(a)

The Ask

•

9(2)(g)(i)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

MBIE's Position

-
-
- MBIE says New Zealand's immigration system has no ability to distinguish, when visas are submitted for approval, between different passport types

Immigration Profiling Branch Review

The Issue

-

The Ask/MBIE Position

- Immigration NZ/MBIE, with MFAT and intelligence agency input, has drafted a report for the Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security (ODESC) consideration.
- That report will be considered 1 November.
-
-

Fiji Travel Sanctions

The Issue

- What additional immigration-related measures might we look at as we look to recalibrate, assessed against developments, our engagement with Fiji.

The Ask

- To continue to work closely with Minister Woodhouse and his officials on the 'when' and the 'what'.
- The 'when' will be significantly informed by MFAT's assessment of progress.
- The 'what' could include a combination of the following:

[Document ID]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

9(2)(g)(ii)
6(a)

9(2)(g)(i)
6(a)

6(a)
6(a)
9(2)(g)(i)

6(a)
6(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

-
- Re-admitting Fiji to the Pacific Access Category (PAC) – straightforward – would not affect other country quotas.
-
-

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

The Issue

-

6(a)

The Ask/Solution

-

6(a)

-

-

-

-

-

- If Ministers are happy with the draft Protocol it will be implemented immediately.

6(a)

MBIE's Position

9(2)(g)(i)

PACER Plus

The Issue

-

9(2)(j)

9(2)(g)(i)

[Document ID]

The Ask

-

MBIE's Position

-

-

-

RELEASSED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

9(2)(g)(i)

9(2)(g)(i)

9(2)(g)(i)

9(2)(j)

9(2)(g)(i)

9(2)(j)

Briefing: MFA-Mol Meeting (10/02/2014)

Working Holiday Schemes

Issue

- We reported earlier to Ministers that:

-
-
-

-

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

6(a)

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

The Ask

-
-
-
-
-

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

6(a),
9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(j)

6(a)

- NZ has uncapped schemes with nine European countries. These nine countries are included among the 16 Schengen Member states with which we have bilateral visa waiver agreements.

6(a)

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT
RELEASSED UNDER THE

MBIE's Position

-
-

6(a)
 9(2)(g)
 9(2)(j)
 9(2)(g)(i)

150 Australian Refugee Resettlement Places: Reallocation for 2014/15

The Issue

-

6(a)

The Ask

- Ministers will be asked to consider their preferences for reallocation of the places for 2014/15 (and if not required in 2015/16).

MBIE's Position

- MBIE suggests places could be reallocated.
 - Either to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled mainly from the Asia-Pacific region;
 - Or to allocate 50 places from the 150 transferee places to large-scale refugee crisis places, thereby increasing those places from 50 to 100 places and allocate the remaining 100 transferee places to UNHCR-referred refugees from the Asia-Pacific region.

Visa Waivers/Processing Issues

The Issue/Ask

-
-

9(2)(g)(i)

• we note these positive developments, and
 • hope that the momentum will continue.

6(a)

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT
 RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Immigration Profiling Branch

The Issue

-
-
- IPB staff are currently being consulted regarding the proposed changes to the IPB. The next step in implementing the changes is establishing the necessary resources and training.

The Ask/MBIE's Position

Fiji Travel Sanctions

The Issue

- The Fiji paper you are taking to ERD on 12 February proposes reducing the scope of the current travel ban.
- These changes may need to be introduced at short notice in response to developments on the ground in Fiji. We would appreciate MBIE's assistance with this.

The Ask

- To implement changes to the travel ban group lists, MBIE officials draft amendments to formal Instructions. These amendments need to be certified by the Minister of Immigration. This step would follow a Cabinet decision and subsequent agreement between joint Ministers, via joint submission.

[Document ID]

The Issue

.

.

The Ask

MBIE's Position

PACER Plus

The Issue

.

The Ask

[Document ID]

RELEASSED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

6(a)

9(2)(g)

9(2)(g)(i)
6(a)

9(2)(j),
9(2)(g)(i)

9(2)(j),
9(2)(g)(i)

MBIE's Position

Budget Bid for Refugee Resettlement

The Issue

RELEASSED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

9(2)(j),

9(2)(g)(i),

9(2)(j),

9(2)(g)(i)

9(2)(g)(i)

6(a)

Working Holiday Scheme: Update Report with Current Numbers Attached (02/04/2014)

WHS – Backdrop

- Cabinet Committee last year instructed officials to come up with a 'strategic framework' to guide the granting of new WHSs.
- This 'strategic framework' has yet to be formally agreed but MFAT and MBIE/Immigration were broadly agreed on a position for Ministers which involved:

○

○

•

•

- Attached is a breakdown of our WHS by country and their current status vis-à-vis uptake (NB: the last column is not, obviously, full year data – rather it is year-to-date (i.e. 1 July through to 31 March 2014).

6(a)

9(2)(j)
9(2)(g)(i)
9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)
6(a)

9(2)(g)(i)

6(a)
9(2)(g)(i)

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT
RELEASSED UNDER THE ACT

[Document ID]

Europe

Next Steps

RELEASSED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

b(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

b(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

b(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

b(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

b(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

b(a),
9(2)(g)(i)

9(2)(j),
9(2)(g)(i)

b(a),
9(2)(j)

b(a),
9(2)(j),
9(2)(g)(i),
~~9(2)(j)~~

b(a),
9(2)(j)