



15 August 2022

Mr Ge

fyi-request-19641-6d03d28f@requests.fyi.org.nz

DOIA 2122-2309

Dear Mr Ge,

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2022 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Could you please release Immigration NZ's "Standard Operating Procedure"?

On 20 June 2022, you refined your request to:

I'm interested in the section(s) in SOPs on refugee related matters, ideally all the contents that could range from selecting the quota all the way to granting residency.

Our Response

On 25 July 2022, we sent a partial response to your request, providing a broad overview of Immigration New Zealand's assessment and decision-making process in relation to quota refugees who could be resettled in New Zealand.

Please refer to Appendix One for the remaining information in scope of your request. Appendix One contains the Refugee Quota Programme Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Assessing and deciding Mandated Refugee applications. This SOP is specific to the assessment process for refugee applications (and contains more detail than our earlier letter describing the end-to-end standard operating process in this area). Please note that it is only recently that having a formal SOP detailing the current decision-making process has been considered desirable in this area, and that this is a draft document that has been prepared to guide the process. It has not been finalised or approved for operational use.

Some information within the SOP is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a) as making that information available would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.
- Section 6(c) as making that information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

Additionally, some information has been marked as out of scope. This is due to content being cross-referenced for administrative purposes but is independent from the decision-making process in relation to the resettlement of refugees.

If you have any further questions, feel free to submit a new request via our online form:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/online-form/>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact inzoias@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fiona Whiteridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

Fiona Whiteridge

General Manager, Refugee and Migrant Services
Immigration New Zealand