



Office of Hon Michael Woodhouse

Minister of Immigration
Minister of Police
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

29 JAN 2015

Murdoch Stephens
fyi-request-2329-6f0aa9b4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Murdoch Stephens

I refer to your official information request dated 10 December 2014. You requested:

- *All departmental advice to the Minister of Immigration between June 10 and December 10 2014 on New Zealand's Refugee Resettlement Quota.*

The information you have requested is attached. Certain information has been withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons

In addition, some information has not been released as it is deemed to be outside the scope of your request.

I have considered under section 9(1) of the Act whether there are any countervailing public interest considerations in making the information withheld under section 9(2) available to you, however, in my view there are none.

You have the right to contest the decision to withhold information 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

Yours sincerely

Luke Chappell
Ministerial Advisor



BRIEFING

Proposed Refugee Quota Programme 2014/15

Date:	30 July 2014	Priority:	Routine
Security Classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	3422 13-14

ACTION SOUGHT

	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Murray McCully Minister of Foreign Affairs	Agree to the recommendations	8 August 2014
Hon Michael Woodhouse Minister of Immigration	Agree to the recommendations	8 August 2014

CONTACT FOR TELEPHONE DISCUSSION (IF REQUIRED)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Steve McGill	General Manager Settlement, Protection and Attraction	§ 9(2)(a)	
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager Refugee and Protection	§ 9(2)(a).	✓

THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES HAVE BEEN CONSULTED

<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> COMU	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> DOC	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Please specify

Minister's Office to Complete:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

COMMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) recommends that you:

- a **agree** to the proposed composition of the 2014/15 Refugee Quota as outlined in Appendix Two.

Agree/disagree

- b **note** the difficulties the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has had in identifying sufficient family-linked cases from the African region for the Refugee Quota Programme and the impact this is likely to have on the percentage of cases resettled from that region.

Noted

- c **note** Cabinet's decision in June 2014 to reallocate, within the 2014/15 Refugee Quota, the 150 places not required by Australia to UNHCR-referred refugees, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region.

Noted

- d **note** that consultations continue to take place between the Ministry and the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) in relation to each countries refugee quota programmes.

Noted

Gerard van Bohemen
**for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and
Trade**

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs

..... / /

Steve McGill
**General Manager
Settlement, Protection
and Attraction
Immigration New Zealand**

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

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Purpose

1. This paper seeks your agreement to the proposed composition of the 2014/15 Refugee Quota for resettlement in New Zealand.
2. Background information on the June 2013 Cabinet decisions [AMENDED MINUTE CAB Min (13) 20/15 refers] on the three-year Refugee Quota Programme 2013/14-2015/16 is located at Annex One.

2013/14 Refugee Quota overview

3. In 2013/14, 750 refugees and their immediate family members were resettled in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota. The percentages resettled from the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Americas and Africa regions for the 2013/14 Refugee Quota follow:

Region resettled from	Percentage of refugees resettled
Asia-Pacific	62 %
Middle East	16 %
Americas	19 %
Africa	3 %

4. The percentage resettled from the Africa region within the 2013/14 Refugee Quota is less than that agreed to by Cabinet for the three-year programme (11 – 14 per cent) because of the ongoing difficulty the UNHCR has in identifying sufficient family-linked cases from that region [AMENDED MINUTE CAB Min (13) 20/15 and 13/05328 refers]. The Ministry has been working with the UNHCR on this matter.

Proposed 2014/15 Refugee Quota

5. The proposed composition for the 2014/15 Refugee Quota is designed to meet Government priorities as agreed by Cabinet in June 2013, the capacities of the refugee resettlement providers, and caseloads which have been identified by the UNHCR as being most in need of international protection.
6. Government agencies and refugee resettlement providers have been consulted about the proposed composition of the 2014/15 Refugee Quota. In addition, discussions have been undertaken with the UNHCR regarding the proposed 2014/15 Refugee Quota and in relation to the UNHCR's global priorities, and refugee protection and resettlement needs.
7. Following this consultation process, it is proposed that the composition of the 2014/15 Refugee Quota includes the following nationalities:
 - Asia-Pacific region (includes resettlement from Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand and Pakistan) – Burmese, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Somali, Iraqi, Liberian and Afghan cases
 - Middle East region (resettlement from Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) – Iraqi, Syrian and Palestinian family-linked cases
 - African region (various locations) – such as family-linked cases of Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean and a mix of other African nationalities
 - Americas region (resettlement from Ecuador) – Colombian cases

- Large-scale refugee crisis situations (resettlement from Egypt) – Syrian cases
8. In addition to the above, the UNHCR may refer for consideration refugee cases of various nationalities under the emergency resettlement category¹.
 9. As part of the decision-making process, INZ's on and off-shore screening and assessment of all cases submitted by the UNHCR for consideration for resettlement will focus on credibility, risk and settlement to ensure that the person is not a security risk or character of concern to New Zealand and that settlement in New Zealand is the right option for them. All cases will undergo immigration risk assessment, and security and Five Country Conference (FCC) biometric checks. Those that do not meet the Government's priorities, the agreed Refugee Quota Programme, New Zealand's relevant immigration policies, security and FCC checks and risk assessment will be declined.
 10. Appendix Two outlines the proposed 2014/15 Refugee Quota composition by region resettled from and nationality of refugees.

Large-scale refugee crisis places

11. Following the establishment of up to 50 places annually within the Refugee Quota Programme to resettle refugees from large-scale refugee crisis situations in June 2013, it has been agreed by Ministers that New Zealand will resettle 100 Syrian refugees [13/05328 refers]. Given the timing of that decision, and processing and logistics required to consider the Syrian refugee referrals from the UNHCR, the 100 Syrian refugees are included for resettlement within the 2014/15 Refugee Quota rather than being spread over the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years.

African region family-linked cases

12. The number of cases proposed from the Africa region is approximately 75 (10 per cent).
13. If the UNHCR continues to have difficulty in identifying sufficient family-linked cases from the Africa region, any unallocated places from that region will be allocated to cases from the Asia-Pacific region to ensure the 2014/15 Refugee Quota is reached.

Resettlement from Malaysia

14. Resettlement of refugees from Malaysia (Asia-Pacific region) has been included in the 2014/15 Refugee Quota. Following the approach taken by our Five Country Conference partners, the new referral cases that will be considered by New Zealand for resettlement will be confined to those, who have gone through the new resettlement verification mechanisms, where we can be confident there are no issues related to their identity (refer 3421 13-14).

Out of scope

Arrangement with Australia – 150 places

15. In June 2013, Cabinet agreed that up to 150 places will be allocated annually from within the Refugee Quota to resettle refugees who have been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation. Cabinet also agreed that should Australia decide not take up the 150 places, then

¹ Within the Refugee Quota, up to 35 places can be used annually for emergency resettlement cases. These are individual cases (usually on a dossier basis) that require emergency resettlement due to such reasons as they face an immediate life-threatening situation, imminent refoulement, deportation or local security threat including arbitrary arrest, detention or imprisonment, which may result in a violation of their human rights.

subject to Cabinet's consideration of the regional allocation, they would be reallocated to UNHCR-referred refugees [AMENDED MINUTE CAB Min (13) 20/15 refers].

16. Following Cabinet's decisions in June 2013, Australia advised that they did not require the 150 places for the 2014/15 year.
17. Cabinet agreed on 9 June 2014 to reallocate the 150 places to UNHCR-referred refugees, mainly from the Asia-Pacific region [Cab Min (14) 19/4 refers].

Consultation with Australia

18. Officials from the Ministry and DIBP exchanged information on their country's respective refugee quota programmes in June 2014 [12/02816 refers]. New Zealand and Australia are continuing to collaborate in resettling, within each country's respective refugee resettlement programmes, refugees from Indonesia and Malaysia. As agreed by Ministers, a new area for collaboration with Australia is resettling Afghan refugees from Pakistan [13/05328 refers]. Resettlement of Afghan refugees from Pakistan (Asia-Pacific region) is proposed within the 2014/15 Refugee Quota.

Communication

19. Pending Ministerial decisions on the proposed 2014/15 Refugee Quota programme, the UNHCR will be informed of those decisions as will key stakeholders, service providers and refugee communities.

Annex One – Refugee Quota Programme 2013/14-2015/16

In June 2013, Cabinet agreed [AMENDED MINUTE CAB Min (13) 20/15 refers] to the three year Refugee Quota Programme² (2013/14-2015/16), which included that:

- the quota would remain at 750 places annually (plus or minus 10 per cent)
- 50 per cent of places would be allocated to UNHCR referred-refugees resettled from the Asia-Pacific region
- 50 per cent places allocated to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from the rest of the world – Africa, the Middle East and the Americas regions
- From 2014/15, up to 150 places will be allocated annually to resettle refugees who had been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation (a Cabinet decision would be required to reallocate the places should Australia not require the places)
- From 2014/15, with the implementation of the resettlement of up to 150 refugees who had been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation, 40 per cent of places would be allocated to UNHCR referred-refugees resettled from the Asia-Pacific region and 40 per cent to the rest of the world (11 per cent from Africa; 11 per cent from Middle East; 18 per cent from the Americas)
- Only family reunification and family-linked cases would be selected for resettlement from Africa and the Middle East regions
- Within the agreed regional allocations, up to 50 places would be allocated annually to resettle UNHCR-referred refugees who require emergency resettlement from large-scale refugee crisis situations

² The Refugee Quota Programme is composed of the following categories: General Protection; Women at Risk and Medical/Disabled cases. The General Protection category includes family reunification cases and up to 35 emergency cases.
MBIE – BRIEFING: PROPOSED REFUGEE QUOTA 2014/15
IN CONFIDENCE

Annex Two – Proposed 2014/15 Refugee Quota composition

2014/15 Proposed Refugee Quota Programme		
Region and Large-scale refugee crisis	Nationalities***	2014/15 Refugee Quota
Asia-Pacific	Burmese, Bhutanese, Afghan, Sri Lankan, Iraqi, Sudanese, Iranian	410 (55%)
Middle East*	Iraqi, Palestinian, Syrian	50 (7%)
Africa*	Such as Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean and a mix of other African nationalities	75 (10%)
Americas	Colombian	115 (15%)
Large-scale refugee crisis**	Syrian	100 (13%)
TOTAL		750 (100%)

*Family reunion / family-linked cases from the Middle East and Africa

**Non-family linked

*** The list of nationalities may vary slightly in the case of submissions on emergency resettlement grounds