



## Office of Hon Michael Woodhouse

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

- 3 NOV 2015

Alex Harris  
fyi-request-3133-ce605dff@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex

Thank you for your email on 10 September, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*all advice on this refugee intake (that is the one-off intake of 750 refugees over three years, 150 of them from within the existing quota that was announced on Monday 7 September 2015). I'm particularly interested in how the number was set, as well as the alternative options considered, and whether a permanent increase in the refugee quota was among them.*

Please find the information requested at the following link:  
[www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/immigration/oia-response-syrian-refugees](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/immigration/oia-response-syrian-refugees).

The documents include those that were produced from April 2015, as I am releasing a standard package to you. Some sections of the papers have been deleted as they are out of scope. I have also withheld sections of some papers under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(b)(i) to avoid prejudicing *the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by ... the Government of any country or any agency of such a Government*
- section 6(b)(ii) to avoid prejudicing *the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by ... any international organisation*
- section 9(2)(a) *to protect the privacy of natural persons*
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) *to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect ... the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials*
- section 9(2)(g)(i), *to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through ... the free and frank expression of opinions by or between ... officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.*

The relevant withholding grounds are noted on the documents.

I am withholding draft press releases under section 9(2)(g)(i). The final version, released 7 September 2015 and titled *New Zealand to take 750 more Syrian refugees*, is available on the Beehive website: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-take-750-more-syrian-refugees](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-take-750-more-syrian-refugees).

In respect of the information being withheld under section 9 of the Act, I do not consider that there are any overriding public interest grounds that support the release of that information.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision to withhold some material you have requested. The relevant contact details are as follows:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Woodhouse', is written over a faint blue horizontal line.

Hon Michael Woodhouse  
**Minister of Immigration**