



3 March 2016

Michael Mapperson  
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Dear Michael Mapperson

Thank you for your request of 18 January 2016, which was transferred to the Ministry on 20 January 2016, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) the following information:

- 1. Please provide the numbers of refugees, asylum-seekers and their families given permanent residence in New Zealand since 01 January 2006.*
- 2. Please also provide the standard level of financial or material assistance (e.g free housing) provided per annum to individual refugees/asylums seekers and their families in 2015*

In response to question 1, data on Residence Decisions for the period 1 July 2010 and 31 January 2016 is publicly available at the following link on Immigration New Zealand's website:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/statistics/>

In the PDF document labelled "R1 Residence" at the above link, data on Residence decisions for refugees (that is asylum seekers granted refugee status in New Zealand) for example can be located at the bookmark "Nationality and Substream – people (total)".

In addition, data on the Refugee Quota Programme and the Refugee Family Support Category (that is family members who are sponsored for Residence by refugees in New Zealand) is publicly available at the following link on Immigration New Zealand's website:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/refugee-protection/refugee-statistics.htm>

In response to question 2, you ask for the "standard level of financial or material assistance provided per annum to individual refugees/asylum seekers and their families in 2015".

In regard to refugees (and their families), there is no standard level of assistance provided in any year to individual refugees and their families. This is because every refugee and their family's circumstances are different. Your request in this regard is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held.



However, you might be interested to know that the Government (across a range of agencies) spends around \$58 million annually to resettle quota refugees under the Refugee Quota Programme. These costs include mainstream services such as education, health, employment support, benefits and housing and refugee-specific services.

In relation to asylum seekers, the vast majority of asylum seekers who lodge claims for refugee status in New Zealand are provided with a relevant temporary visa to enable them to reside in the community while their claims are being determined.

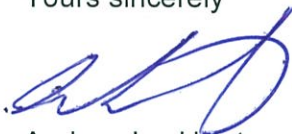
For the very small number of asylum seekers who may be detained under a Warrant of Commitment at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre or who may be Released on Conditions into the community, the Ministry provides them a weekly allowance of \$85 or \$120 respectively to cover food costs and personal provisions while their refugee status claim is being determined. These asylum seekers are provided a weekly allowance as they have been refused entry into New Zealand and have not been granted a temporary visa.

However, again the total amount of assistance any individual asylum seeker receives varies and they may be eligible for financial or material support from other government agencies while their claims for refugee status are being determined in New Zealand. As such, to the extent that your request is about the standard level of per annum assistance provided to asylum seekers, it is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held.

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

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

Yours sincerely



Andrew Lockhart  
National Manager  
Refugee and Protection  
Immigration New Zealand