



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial
Services

6 DEC 2016

M Stephens

Email: fyi-request-4953-8d790861@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 159-2016

Dear M Stephens

Official Information Act request for Advice Relating to New Zealand's Refugee Resettlement Quota

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 15 November 2016 for:

- *"all advice to the Prime Minister between May 1 2016 and November 1 2016 on New Zealand's Refugee Resettlement Quota.*
- *all advice to the Prime Minister between May 1 2016 and November 1 2016 on New Zealand's participation in the United Nations General Assembly Leader's Summit on Refugees held 20 September, 2016."*

You asked that *"If any documents that fall within the scope of my request are to be withheld in full then I would like the titles and dates of those documents to be released. I would also prefer that if my request is expansive enough to trigger a s18(f) refusal that I can be provided with the titles/dates of the relevant documents so that I can focus my request forwards particular documents."*

The only advice to the Prime Minister identified as potentially relevant to your request is advice provided in briefings to the Prime Minister by the Policy Advisory Group of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence, in order to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefing are withheld in their entirety, including their titles, under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary 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) as withholding the information is necessary to *"maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty."*

No public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff