



- 6 MAR 2017

B Knight

Fyi-request-5415-95215f24@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear B Knight

On 21 February 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *All internal correspondence between January 1, 2009 and February 20, 2017 on the family link criteria component of the regional allocations of New Zealand's refugee resettlement quota.*
- *All documents containing advice between January 1, 2009 and February 20, 2017 to (a) the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade, and (b) the Minister of Immigration, and their respective offices, on the family link criteria component of the regional allocations of New Zealand's refugee resettlement quota.*

The Government established a formal annual quota for the resettlement of refugees in 1987. The Refugee Quota Branch (RQB) is a branch of Immigration New Zealand (INZ), which is tasked with operating the Refugee Quota Programme. INZ in turn sits within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). The Refugee Quota Programme is decided by the New Zealand Government in three-year cycles. The composition of the refugee quota is agreed to annually by the Minister of Immigration and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Further information about the Refugee Quota Programme can be found via the INZ website online: www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/our-strategies-and-projects/supporting-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/refugee-and-protection-unit/new-zealand-refugee-quota-programme

The Ministry of Social Development has no internal correspondence between 1 January 2009 and 20 February 2017 about the family link criteria component of the regional allocation of New Zealand's refugee resettlement quota nor are there any documents containing advice between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister of Immigration, or their respective offices, about the family link criteria component of the regional allocation of New Zealand's refugee resettlement quota between 1 January 2009 and 20 February 2017, as such, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as this information does not exist.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding the New Zealand refugee resettlement quota with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



PP

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services