



Office of Hon Michael Woodhouse

Minister of Immigration
Minister of Veterans' Affairs

Associate Minister of Transport
National Member of Parliament

16 JUL 2013

M Stephens
fyi-request-920-240ba699@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M Stephens

I refer to your official information request, dated 18 June 2013, requesting:

- *All departmental advice in the last 18 months to the Minister of Immigration on feasibility and impacts of Red Cross/Refugee Services merger.*

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 towards particular documents.

I attach a copy of the briefing materials which are covered by your request. There are three papers as follows:

- 12/05603 Aide Memoire to the Minister of Immigration: Meeting with Refugee Services Aotearoa and New Zealand Red Cross dated 17 October 2012;
- 13/01098 Aide Memoire to the Minister of Immigration: New Zealand Red Cross dated 20 March 2013; and
- 13/03147 Aide Memoire: New Zealand Red Cross Meeting dated 10 June 2013.

Some sections in the attached documents have not been released, as the information contained in those sections is considered to be out of the scope of your request.

Some information within the three briefing materials has been withheld under the following provision of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- section 9(2)(a) – protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

I have considered under section 9(1) of the OIA whether there are any countervailing public interest considerations in making the foregoing information 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Woodhouse', written in a cursive style.

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration



Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Aide Memoire: New Zealand Red Cross

Date Sent:	20 March 2013	Tracker No:	13/01098
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Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline for Action
Minister of Immigration (Hon Michael Woodhouse)	Note	N/A

Agencies Consulted (include contact where relevant)

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Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager Refugee and Protection Unit		withheld section 9(2)a
Steve McGill	General Manager (Acting) Settlement, Protection and Attraction		✓ withheld section 9(2)a

Minister's Office Actions (if required)

None

Enclosure: No

Minister's Comments

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Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

20 March 2013

13/01098

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Aide Memoire: New Zealand Red Cross

Purpose

1. This paper provides information you have requested on the New Zealand Red Cross (NZ Red Cross) and for your meeting with Jenny McMahon, NZ Red Cross President on Wednesday, 27 March 2013 from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.

New Zealand Red Cross – background information

Out
of
Scope

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Amalgamation of NZ Red Cross and Refugee Services Aotearoa

5. Refugee Services Aotearoa (Refugee Services) approached and reached agreement with the NZ Red Cross for their organisations to be amalgamated at the end of 2012. As a result of the agreement, Refugee Services' resettlement service contracts and staff were transferred to NZ Red Cross.
6. Following the due diligence process for the amalgamation of the two organisations, the NZ Red Cross considered that a funding shortfall remained, given the social work services provided by Refugee Services.
7. The contractual and funding arrangements the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) and Family and Community Services (FACS – Ministry of Social Development) had with Refugee Services has been transferred to the NZ Red Cross. Detail about funding arrangements is outlined in the below section and Annex One outlines the refugee resettlement services included in the Ministry contract with NZ Red Cross.
8. Prior to and during the amalgamation, Refugee Services focused on the strategic benefits and financial partnership that the amalgamation with the NZ Red Cross provided in relation to continuing the refugee quota resettlement work Refugee Services undertakes, while being able to utilise the broader reach and capacity of the NZ Red Cross.
9. The Ministry was supportive of the amalgamation of the two organisations as the staff transfer arrangements ensured that expertise developed within Refugee Services in relation to refugee resettlement continued, and the amalgamation also provides opportunities for strengthening service provision in a larger non-government organisation (NGO) that has, for example, offices throughout the country and an established global network with strong humanitarian interest.

Rest of document

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Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Aide Memoire: Meeting with Refugee Services Aotearoa and New Zealand Red Cross

Date Sent:	17 October 2012	Tracker No:	12/05603
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Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline for Action
Minister of Immigration (Hon Nathan Guy)	Note the attached information	N/A

Agencies Consulted (include contact where relevant)

N/A

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
	Acting National Manager Refugee and Protection Unit		N/A withheld section 9(2)a
Steve McGill	Acting General Manager, Settlement, Protection and Attraction		withheld section 9(2)a

Minister's Office Actions (if required)

None

Minister's Comments

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Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

17 October 2012

12/05603

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Aide Memoire: Meeting with Refugee Services Aotearoa and New Zealand Red Cross

Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides information for your meeting with Refugee Services Aotearoa (Refugee Services) and the New Zealand Red Cross (Red Cross) on 18 October 2012 at 11:00am.

Meeting

2. You have agreed to meet with Heather Hayden (Chief Executive, Refugee Services) and John Ware (Chief Executive, Red Cross) at 11:00am on 18 October 2012. Refugee Services and Red Cross wish to speak with you about the proposed amalgamation of the two organisations.
3. Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) officials are available to attend this meeting to provide support.
4. Background information on the Red Cross and Refugee Services is located at Appendix One.

Proposed amalgamation

5. Refugee Services has approached and reached agreement with the Red Cross for their organisations to be amalgamated. The process for this transition is being worked through by Refugee Services and Red Cross and requires notification and ratification by Refugee Services' members. As a result of the agreement, Refugee Services' resettlement service contracts and staff will be transferred to Red Cross. Refugee Services anticipates that the transition to Red Cross may be underway by mid-November 2012.
6. The transfer of current year contractual and funding arrangements the Ministry has with Refugee Services will be worked through by the Ministry with Red Cross and Refugee Services.
7. Refugee Services is focusing on the strategic benefits and financial partnership that the amalgamation with the Red Cross provides in relation to continuing the refugee quota resettlement work Refugee Services undertakes, while being able to utilise the broader reach and capacity of the Red Cross.
8. Ministry officials have met with both Refugee Services and Red Cross to discuss the proposal to amalgamate the two organisations, and the Ministry is supportive of the proposal. The staff transfer arrangements ensure that expertise developed within Refugee Services in relation to refugee resettlement will continue, and the amalgamation will also provide opportunities for strengthening service provision in a larger non-government organisation (NGO) that has, for example, offices throughout the country and an established global network with strong humanitarian interest.

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Scope

Funding and settlement services

13. Following the due diligence process, the Red Cross considers that a funding shortfall remains, given the current social work services provided by Refugee Services, and that a reducing shortfall is forecast for the next three years. In addition, they are aware Cabinet will be making decisions on the DBC and that this may impact on how refugee resettlement services are delivered and funded in the future. Red Cross have noted their interest in meeting with you and INZ officials to discuss the organisation's longer term engagement and partnership following Cabinet decisions being made on the DBC and following the agreement of Refugee Services' members for the amalgamation of the two organisations.

Out of
Scope

Communications Strategy

15. Refugee Services has informed the Ministry that they have developed a communications strategy, which focuses on the strategic benefits of the amalgamation (rather than the organisation being forced to close due to changes in government funding).
15. Red Cross have expressed an interest in working with Government in terms of developing their communications to the wider refugee sector and community informing them of the amalgamation of the two organisations.

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**APPENDIX One: Background information on the New Zealand Red Cross
and Refugee Services Aotearoa**

Out of Scope

Rest of Document Out of Scope.

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Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Aide Memoire:
New Zealand Red Cross meeting

Date Sent:	10 June 2013	Tracker No:	13/03147
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Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline for Action
Minister of Immigration (Hon Michael Woodhouse)	Note	N/A

Agencies Consulted (include contact where relevant)

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Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
Andrew Lockhart	National Manager Refugee and Protection Unit		withheld Section 9(2)a
Steve McGill	General Manager Settlement, Protection and Attraction		withheld section 9(2)a

Minister's Office Actions (if required)

None

Enclosure: No

Minister's Comments

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Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

10 June 2013

13/03147

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Aide Memoire: New Zealand Red Cross meeting

Purpose

1. This paper provides information for your meeting with Jenny McMahon, New Zealand Red Cross (Red Cross) National President on Thursday, 13 June 2013 at 9am.

Issues proposed by Red Cross for discussion

2. In a letter to you, dated 6 May 2013, from the Red Cross, they indicated that they wished to discuss the following issues with you:
 - a. Red Cross' funding concerns
 - b. Refugee services' tender process

Out of Scope

3. Information on each of these points is provided in the below sections.

Out of Scope

a Funding concerns

5. Red Cross have expressed their concerns about the organisation's funding shortfall since they amalgamated with Refugee Services Aotearoa.
6. Since the Red Cross took over the contract from Refugee Services Aotearoa to provide settlement support to quota refugees, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) officials have met regularly with them to support the transition. More recently there have been specific meetings to discuss the Red Cross' concerns about the organisation's funding. At those meetings the Red Cross reiterated their concerns about the loss of \$500,000 Community Response Funding¹ from the organisation's budget and the impact this had on the inherited operating deficit; the larger than expected quota intakes in the later part of 2012/13; and the unfunded resettlement costs for the Afghan interpreters.

Out of Scope

¹ The Community Response Fund (administered by Family and Community Services, the Ministry of Social development) was closed in February 2012. The Fund was a short-term, time limited response to address the immediate cost and demand pressures the economic downturn was placing on key community-based critical social services for families, children, young and older people.

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b Tender process

8. The current contract with the Red Cross to provide resettlement services to quota refugees was extended through to 30 September 2013 at the time the contract was transferred to the Red Cross from Refugee Services Aotearoa. The contract was extended to recognise that new contracting arrangements would be required for the initial implementation of the New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy (the Strategy) and to allow sufficient time to develop the service specifications and carry out the tender process.

Out of Scope

Rest of document out of Scope

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