

18 February 2014

M Stephens
fyi-request-1400-4e3b81b0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M Stephens

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act of 18 January 2014 requesting all departmental advice to the Minister of Foreign Affairs between January 2012 and January 2014 on Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, including the emergency quota.

Some of the information covered by your request has recently been released to you by the Minister of Immigration. That material has not been duplicated in the attached. In addition, some material has been omitted as it is not within the scope of your OIA request.

A copy of the material that falls within the scope of your request is enclosed. Some portions of the document have been withheld. In such cases, the sections of Act under which the documents have been withheld have been noted in the margins of the document.

The grounds for withholding the information include Section 6, that:

- making available that information would be likely—
 - (a) to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
 - (b) to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by—

(i) the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government;

or

(ii) by any international organisation.

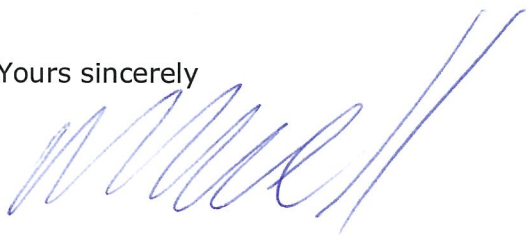
And Section 9(2)(a), that:

- withholding of the information is necessary to—

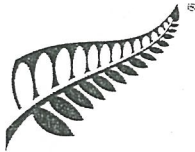
- (a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;

Under Section 28 (3) of the Official Information Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review the withholding of information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Markwell', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Nick Markwell
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

22 October 2013

► Minister of Foreign Affairs

For action by 23 October 2013



REFUGEE QUOTA SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION Issue

PURPOSE To brief you ahead of the meeting with Minister of Immigration this Wednesday 23rd October and provide comment on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment submission on the Refugee Quota that has been copied to you for information.

Recommended referrals

Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE	MOBILE PHONE
	Unit Manager	UNHC		
	Policy Officer	UNHC		59(2)(a)

Minister's Office comments

Signed / Referred

Date: ___ / ___ / ___

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Key points

- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment have provided an update on the 2013/14 Refugee Quota Programme and are seeking guidance from the Minister of Immigration on a number of related issues.
- The paper from MBIE recommends that the 50 places set aside in the Refugee Quota for emergency resettlement from large scale refugee situations should be allocated to **Syrian** refugees. New Zealand officials in Geneva and in Immigration New Zealand are working proactively with **Five Country Conference** partners (Australia, the UK, Canada and the United States) on best practices regarding Syrian refugees, including potential security risks and exclusion issues.
- MFAT officials are working with MBIE and other relevant agencies to ensure that security concerns regarding the resettlement of Syrian nationals are appropriately worked through.
- Given the high international profile of the Syrian refugee crisis and the opportunity for New Zealand to provide useful assistance to refugee host countries (Jordan and Lebanon) MFAT supports the MBIE proposal to allocate the 50 places to Syria. Of the 18 resettlement countries, 16 have already indicated that they will resettle Syrian refugees.

6 (a)

6 (a)

6 (a)

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | | |
|---|--|----------|-------|
| 1 | | Yes / No | 6 (a) |
| 2 | | Yes / No | 6 (a) |
| 3 | Support the proposal to allocate the 50 places set aside in the Refugee Quota for emergency resettlement from large scale refugee situations to Syrian refugees. | Yes / No | |

Gerard van Bohemen
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT