



# Office of Hon Michael Woodhouse

Minister of Immigration  
Minister of Revenue  
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

13 JUN 2016

Mr Murdoch Stephens  
fyi-request-3941-42968184@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: Min OIA 41

Dear Mr Stephens

Thank you for your email of 29 April 2016 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*“all departmental advice to the Minister of Immigration between September 16, 2015 and April 29 2016 on New Zealand’s Refugee Resettlement Quota.”*

In response to your request, I attach copies of the following documents:

- *Proposed next three-year refugee quota; costs and other impacts of options*, dated 18 April 2016;
- *Information for the next three year refugee programme*, dated 17 March 2016;
- *Proposed approach to next three-year refugee programme*, dated 1 March 2016; and
- *Next three-year Refugee Resettlement Programme – options*, dated 30 November 2016.

Some parts of the documents provided have been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(b)(i), as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country;
- 6(b)(ii), as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by an international organisation;
- 18(d), as that information will soon be made publicly available on the Ministry’s website;
- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and Officials, as this information refers to proposals that are under active consideration.

In response to your previous request for similar information, I withheld in full the paper titled *Next three-year Refugee Resettlement Programme – options*, on the basis that the information was under active consideration. Given the paper falls within scope of this

request, I have re-assessed the content and have decided to release the parts of the briefing that refer to the current refugee settings.

I have withheld in full the following two briefings:

- *Proposed next three year refugee and humanitarian programme*, dated 7 March 2016, under section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and Officials. The briefing outlines proposals that are under active consideration.
- *UNHCR's submission on the 2016/17 to 2018/19 Refugee Quota*, dated 7 March 2016, under section 6(b)(ii), as the briefing discusses a submission by UNHCR and releasing this information might prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the UNHCR.

In respect of the information being withheld under section 9 of the Act, I do not consider that there are any overriding public interest grounds that support the release of that information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Hon Michael Woodhouse  
**Minister of Immigration**