



Office of Hon Michael Woodhouse

Minister of Immigration
Minister of Veterans' Affairs



E-MAILED

Associate Minister of Transport
National Member of Parliament

05 SEP 2013

M Stephens
fyi-request-919-0def1a96@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear M Stephens

I refer to your email, dated 10 August 2013, in which you have requested clarification about some of the information that was released to you on 7 August 2013 in response to your Official Information Act (OIA) request, dated 10 June 2013, for "*departmental advice to the Minister of Immigration in the last 18 months on the Refugee Resettlement Strategy*". You have asked the following questions:

(1) document 26 October 2012, tracker no. 12/05390, pg. 13, (22) was excluded based on 9(2)(j) which was described as dealing with the tender process for the Mangere rebuild however 19-23 in that document dealt with the refugee quota and not the rebuild. Perhaps there was an alternative reason for the refusal, or could this point please be released.

(2) document 10 June 2013 tracker no. 13/03130, a page seems to be missing that features points 6 and 7. No indication is given for the reason for this omission.

(3) - regarding the same document as (2) above: point 16 is omitted as out of scope of the request. Given much of the other material on health has been included, I'd like you to reconsider this omission - this is a simple process than requiring more time spent on future OIA requests.

(4) - regarding the same document as (2) above: point 17 refers to a July 2013 progress update on the implementation of the strategy that has not been included in this OIA request. Can this document also be supplied, or was this point an error and no such document exists?

Question One

I can clarify that some information within the release was withheld under section 9 (2)(j) of the OIA in relation to the tender process underway for the rebuild of the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre, as well as the contracting for refugee resettlement services and negotiations related to changes to offshore health testing for quota refugees. Information contained at point 22 on page 13 of the document dated 22 October 2012 (refer 12/05390) is related to the estimated funding required for the offshore health testing.

Question Two

The page in question from the document dated 10 June 2013 (refer 13/03130) was omitted by error and is now enclosed.

Question Three

As noted in the OIA release the information contained at point 17 of the document dated 10 June 2013 (refer 13/03130) was considered out of scope of your request on the Strategy.

Question Four

No such July 2013 progress update exists. In addition, please note that your June 2013 OIA request sought information from the "*last 18 months*", and as such the timeframe for information being considered for release to you was from December 2011 to June 2013.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Woodhouse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

6. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry; Immigration New Zealand) has been working with each of the core agencies¹ who will be providing data to establish the monitoring arrangements.
7. The Ministry has provided guidelines to agencies for the documentation of their data sources (meta-data) and to provide information on the measure(s) pertaining to their agency. As well as coordinating the data provided by these agencies, the Ministry is also responsible for measuring two of the indicators (paid employment and unemployment benefit receipt).
8. The quota refugee population of interest is intakes arriving from 1 July 2013. There will be a time lag before information is available for these refugees. For example, benefit and employment data may not be available until 2016. In the interim, the Ministry will supply information on the most recent data (where available) to provide an example of what each indicator looks like and to provide information on a baseline population.
9. Welfare reforms will affect refugee clients from July 2013. The monitoring work will take account of these changes.

Service Mix

2. Cabinet agreed that there should be an enhanced focus on employment as part of the reception programme.
3. As part of the work on the service mix and delivery, the Ministry is designing improved orientation and resettlement services for quota refugees at the pre-arrival, reception and initial resettlement stages. As part of these changes the Ministry will also tender the contract for initial resettlement in the community which is currently operated by the Red Cross. The Ministry is exploring the option of including in the future contract the management and delivery of the reception phase which has a strong link to initial settlement stages.
4. The current reception programme has been mapped to the outcomes sought in the Strategy. This identified some gaps and service overlaps that should be addressed in the future service mix.
5. A draft paper with proposals for the future service mix has been reviewed by government agencies and the final paper will be discussed at the Project Steering Group meeting in mid-June 2013. The proposals take account of consultation with:
 - a small group of refugees who arrived in New Zealand in the last two years
 - refugee communities in the six resettlement areas
 - the External Reference Group of key stakeholders and NGOs working in the refugee sector
6. Once the appropriate service mix has been agreed, the detailed services for managing the reception and initial settlement stage will be identified and costed as part of the tender process scheduled for early in the new financial year.

Strategic governance

7. The SSW Chief Executives' Group will provide the overall strategic governance for the strategy. Following their meeting on the 1 May 2013 they agreed that they will:

¹ These include the Ministries of Health and Education, Housing NZ Corporation, and business groups within the Ministry.