



13 FEB 2018



Dear 

On 24 November 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A copy of all communications between the Ministry of Social Development, the office of the Minister of Social Development, the Office of the Prime Minister and any other ministerial office and any other government department regarding refugees.*
 - *I am specifically interested in any information regarding housing, including motel accommodation, for refugees. I am also interested in any information you have sent or received regarding translation services for refugees.*
 - *I would expect this to include all advice, reports, briefing notes, emails, meeting notes and summaries of telephone conversations which fall within the scope of my request.*
 - *The time frame for this request is information sent or received since 23 October 2017.*

On 11 December 2017, it was clarified with you that you were not interested in operational information about specific individuals. Such information has been deemed out of scope of your request.

As per your indicated interest, the scope of your request has been limited to information about housing and translation services for refugees.

Please find enclosed the following three interagency emails regarding housing for refugees.

- Email, '*RE: Refugees and public housing work*', dated 24 November 2017.
- Email, '*RE: Refugee paper*', dated 24 November 2017.
- Email, '*RE: Wellington inter-agency group on housing for refugees [UNCLASSIFIED]*', dated 22 November 2017.

The Ministry holds one more email in scope of your request between Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) staff and Ministry staff, titled, '*RE: Refugees advice and collaboration [UNCLASSIFIED]*', dated 21 November 2017. The Ministry understands that you have made a similar request to MBIE. This email is being released to you in part by MBIE. To avoid duplication, it has not been included in the documents enclosed.

You will note in the emails that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information. Some information has also been withheld as it is outside the scope of your request.

You will also note from the emails that there is a cross-agency working group in Wellington created to discuss the issues related to locating housing for quota refugees in the settlement locations. For your information, this working group consists of representatives from the Ministry, Housing New Zealand (HNZ), and MBIE. The working group was established in August 2017 and first met in November 2017.

Minister Twyford was advised to expect a report regarding refugees and housing in the weekly updates from the agencies relevant to the Housing and Urban Development portfolio since 10 November 2017. The weekly updates are withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as they are under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served. Please note that the report in question has not been provided to the Minister.

In regards to the second part of your request about translation services for refugees, the Ministry holds a small amount of information relating to the Language Assistance Services project which is in scope of your request, however it is information generated by MBIE and as such, the documents are being considered for release by MBIE and are not included in the Ministry's response to avoid duplication. Further information about this project is available from the Immigration New Zealand website here: www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/our-strategies-and-projects/the-language-assistance-services-project.

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.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding refugees, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sandra Preston
General Manager Housing Policy

From: S 9(2)(a) [redacted]@msd.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 24 November 2017 4:00 p.m.
To: HNZN contact [redacted]
Subject: Refugees and public housing work

Hi S 9(2)(a) [redacted],

I'm currently working on the next iteration of the refugees and public housing report, taking over from S 9(2)(a) [redacted]. I believe you were consulted on his report back in August. This reports builds on the previous version (which didn't make it to the previous Minister at the time) and has been tailored for the new Minister and government priorities. I'm aiming to have it ready for consultation on Monday, I thought I would send you a heads up.

Many thanks,



S 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Graduate Policy Analyst | Supply and Markets | Housing Policy
S 9(2)(a) [redacted]@msd.govt.nz
The Aurora Centre | Level 8 | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



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S 9(2)(a)

From: S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 24 November 2017 5:15 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a), MBIE contacts
Cc:
Subject: RE: Refugee paper [IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi S 9(2)(a)

Thanks for this, I am reading through this now. At a glance, the only reference I might make in our report with respect to this report is something along the lines of "The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has provided advice to the Minister for Immigration on the next steps for implementing the Government's commitment to increase the refugee quota to 1500 places over three years." – Which I would only include if you give it the ok, and I will include you on my list of people to send for consultation. It's only a high level three page report.

I'm aiming to circulate this to external agencies on Monday, once I have got feedback from others in MSD Housing.

Looks like there will be an opportunity to feed in further work done on the housing of refugees for that March 2018 paper.

Many thanks,

S 9(2)(a), MBIE contacts

From: S 9(2)(a) @mbie.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 24 November 2017 2:41 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a)
Cc:
Subject: Refugee paper [IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi S 9(2)(a)

By way of introduction, I am from the Immigration Policy team at MBIE. Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons mentioned that you had met and that you are writing a paper on housing issues related to the Refugee Quota Programme.

Out of scope

The only specific mention of housing the paper is in relation to the follow-up advice that we are proposing to provide in March 2018, which will cover off the considerations that will need to be made when deciding when the Refugee Quota will be increased (and in what stages). It would be good to be linked up with your team when we are developing this advice as it will include consideration of housing issues.

Happy for you to get in touch if you have any questions. S 9(2)(a) also mentioned that you would be circulating a draft your paper early next week – I would appreciate if you could send it my way also. It would be good to know in advance if the paper will be referred to the Minister of Immigration so that we can let him know to expect it.

All the best

S 9(2)(a)

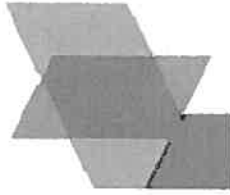
Immigration Policy | Labour, Science and Enterprise

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

S 9(2)(a)



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI



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RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

S 9(2)(a)

From: S 9(2)(a)@mbie.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 November 2017 4:39 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Wellington inter-agency group on housing for refugees [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi S 9(2)(a) – my apologies for any confusion we may have caused. We would welcome broader attendance from MSD at the inter-agency group we are seeking to establish to discuss refugee quota housing issues, (including at the strategic level, procurement, and policy). We are keen for all areas within MSD, which deals with housing, are included in the group.

If this approach works for MSD, we look forward to receiving names and contact details of who from MSD we should contact to participate in the inter-agency discussions.

The other agency representatives are:

S 9(2)(a) – HNZC
S 9(2)(a) – INZ
S 9(2)(a) – Treasury
S 9(2)(a) – MSD
Other representation – MSD (TBC)

We are looking at scheduling the next meeting in December. Prior to that meeting we will circulate information about suggested areas for discussion and update on the refugee quota.

All best

S 9(2)(a)

S 9(2)(a)

Refugee & Protection Unit
Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
15 Stout Street / PO Box 1473 / Wellington / New Zealand
Tel: +
Email: S 9(2)(a)@mbie.govt.nz

From: S 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 November 2017 1:28 p.m.
To: S 9(2)(a)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Wellington inter-agency group on housing for refugees

Hi

S 9(2)(a)

S 9(2)(a)

Our non-attendance was not related to temporarily leaving the DCE office. and I were down to attend the last meeting and then were told by MBIE that they wanted to limit numbers and we were therefore not required.

I am not sure we need multiple people from MSD to attend, so suggest attendance be based on agenda items.

S 9(2)(a)

From: S 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 22 November 2017 12:56 p.m.

To: S 9(2)(a)
Cc:

Subject: Wellington inter-agency group on housing for refugees

Hi S 9(2)(a)

I understand that S 9(2)(a) had initially been listed to represent MSD Housing at a cross agency working group (including MSD, HNZN and Immigration NZ) and formed to discuss current issues around the housing of quota refugees in public housing. I believe that he has had to leave this work behind since he became a Private Sectary.

In my conversations with S 9(2)(a) from Immigration New Zealand, she has noted that it would be great if we could find someone to replace S 9(2)(a) who could represent MSD housing on the working group. S 9(2)(a) is currently the only member for MSD on the working group (the first meeting was on 8 November) and representing from MSD Service Delivery. I thought that I might send this query to you since S 9(2)(a) was previously in your team in the DCE office.

Many thanks,



S 9(2)(a)

Graduate Policy Analyst | Supply and Markets | Housing Policy
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- The Aurora Centre | Level 8 | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



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