



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Kris Faafoi	Portfolio	Minister of Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Government Response to the Petition of Sam Vincent – Let's Show Compassion to the Uyghur Community	Date to be published	17 January 2022

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
November 2021	Government Response to Referral of Sam Vincent's Petition: Let's show compassion to the Uyghur community	Office of the Minister of Immigration
11 November 2021	Government Response to the Petition of Sam Vincent – Let's Show Compassion to the Uyghur Community LEG-21-MIN-0185	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Immigration
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

Government Response to the Petition of Sam Vincent: *Let's show compassion to the Uyghur community*

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval of the government's response to the Petition of Sam Vincent: *Let's show compassion to the Uyghur community*.

Background of the Petition

- 2 On 8 April 2021, the Petitions Committee referred the Petition of Sam Vincent: *Let's show compassion to the Uyghur community* to the government for response. The Petition requested that:

"The House of Representative recommend to the government create a pathway for Uyghur refugees to resettle in New Zealand through the Refugee Quota Programme so that they can build their future without fear of being persecuted; and that 1,158 people have signed an online petition calling for this".

- 3 The Petitions Committee also invited the petitioner to provide a written submission to facilitate the Minister's process. A written submission titled *Requesting a Ministerial Response to Open Letter for safe passage for Uyghur Community to Aotearoa New Zealand* was received from the petitioner (member of the Uyghur Solidarity Aotearoa NZ) and the Kahdija Leadership Network. The written submission response sought:
 - "a formal response to the request made in the open letter. We would appreciate a thorough explanation in the response if the refugee pathway for some reason is deemed inappropriate for us to utilise. We would appreciate the Minister to consider:
 - the process used in the Syria and Rohingya situations as exemplars of how we have responded in urgent crisis situations previously;
 - family reunification for those Uyghurs who already reside here, as existing familial connections can support the resettlement process and make it easier to provide the necessary socio-economic support. This would allow the intake of Uyghur refugees to have less of an impact on the scarce resources we have in the system.

- an official response on the claims made in *Deleted* around our government's involvement with companies who are supporting human rights abuses in Xinjiang".

Comment on the government response

- 4 The government response outlines New Zealand's long-standing commitment to working with the international community and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to find durable protection solutions for refugees in need of that protection.
- 5 The response also provides information about the New Zealand Growth Capital Partners' (NZGCP) responsible investment policy.
- 6 The proposed government response is located in **Annex One**.

Timing of the government response

- 7 The government response must be presented to the House by 60 working days.

Consultation

- 8 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and (NZGCP) were consulted in the development of this paper.

Financial implications

- 9 There are no financial implications.

Publicity

- 10 No publicity is planned.

Proactive Release

- 11 The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will publish this paper, subject to redactions, on its website within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet.

Recommendations

The Minister of Immigration recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **Note** the Petitions Committee's referral of the petition entitled *Let's show compassion to the Uyghur community*;
- 2 **Note** the submission of the Minister of Immigration and in particular his advice about New Zealand's commitment to provide protection to refugees who need international protection through our Refugee Quota Programme;

- 3 **Approve** the government response, attached to this submission, to the Petition of Sam Vincent: *Let's show compassion to the Uyghur community*;
- 4 **Invite** the Minister of Immigration to present the government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 380;
- 5 **Invite** the Minister of Immigration to write to the petitioner enclosing a copy of the government response, after the response has been presented to the House.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Immigration