



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Andrew Little	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Government response to the petition of Leo Li: <i>Help a family from Tibet to avoid deportation from New Zealand</i>	Date to be published	17 July 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
June 2023	Government response to the petition of Leo Li: <i>Help a family from Tibet to avoid deportation from New Zealand</i>	Office of the Minister of Immigration
1 June 2023	Government response to the petition of Leo Li LEG-23-MIN-0074 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

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.

Some information has been withheld to protect the privacy of natural persons.



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Government Response to the Petition of Leo Li

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 1 June 2023, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** the Petitions Committee's referral of the petition of Leo Li entitled *Help a family from Tibet to avoid deportation from New Zealand*;
- 2 **noted** New Zealand's commitment to provide protection to those who fear returning to their own country and to make decisions on refugee and protected person status as a signatory of international human rights instruments;
- 3 **noted** that the petitioner has impliedly waived his family's right to confidentiality by disclosing to the media that they are refugee claimants, particulars in relation to them and their claims, and that they have appealed to the Immigration and Protection Tribunal;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration has no ability to make decisions in relation to refugee and protection claims, and that such claims can only be determined by a refugee and protection officer or by the Immigration and Protection Tribunal on appeal;
- 5 **noted** that the petitioner's refugee and protection claim is under active consideration before the Immigration and Protection Tribunal, a Tribunal independent of the government;
- 6 **noted** the Immigration and Protection Tribunal appeal hearing is scheduled for after the government response is due to be presented to the House and that the Minister of Immigration is unable to comment further in response to this petition;
- 7 **approved** the government response, attached to the submission under LEG-23-SUB-0074, to the petition of Leo Li: *Help a family from Tibet to avoid deportation from New Zealand*;
- 8 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to present the government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 380;
- 9 **invited** 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.

Rebecca Davies
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Kiri Allan
Hon David Parker
Hon Kieran McAnulty (Chair)
Tangi Utikere, MP (Chief Government Whip)

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for LEG