



Cabinet

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Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Immigration

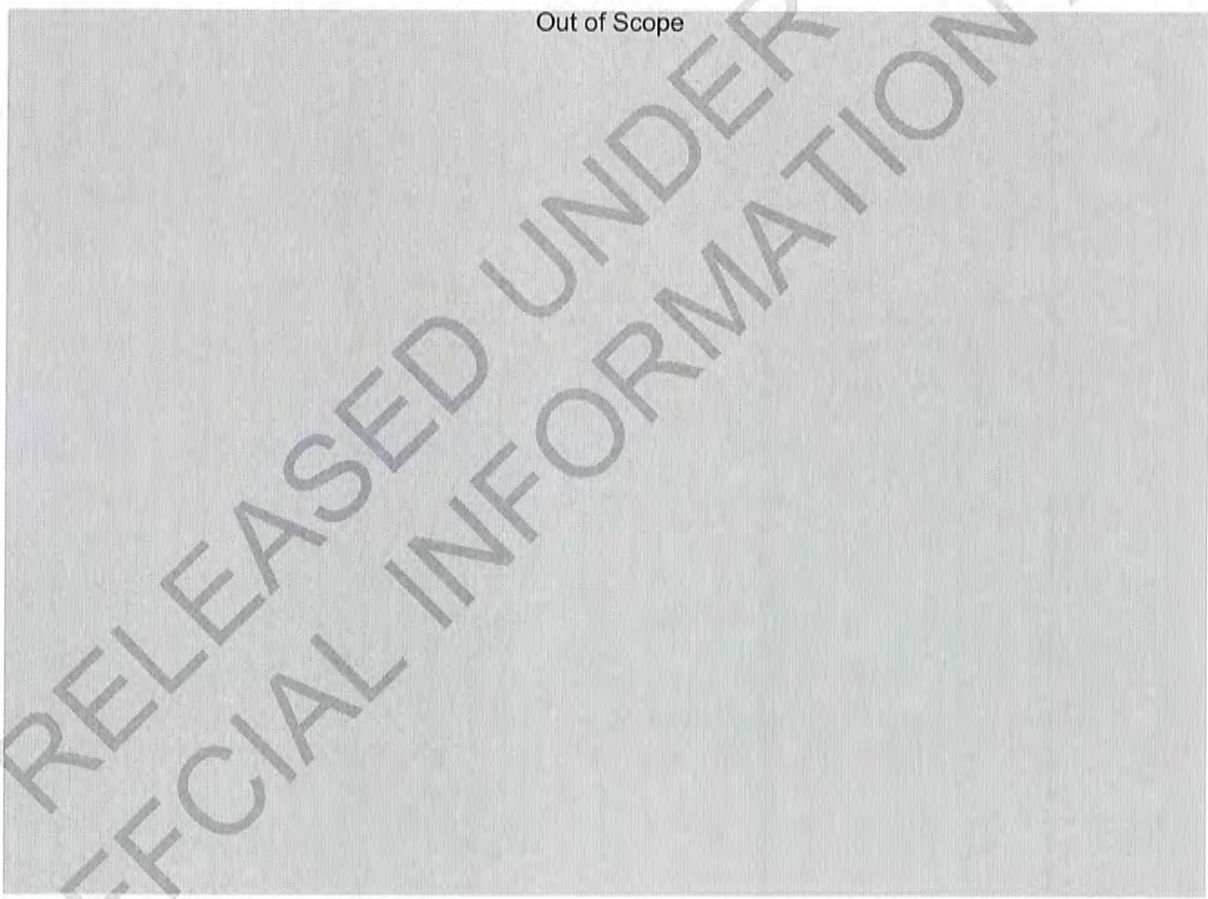
On 7 September 2015, Cabinet:

- 1 noted that Immigration New Zealand can accommodate up to a maximum of 250 Syrian refugees in its refugee resettlement programmes in each of 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18;
- 2 noted that it will be challenging to house and provide services for more than 150 Syrian refugees in the 2015/16 year, but that it would be possible to cater for up to 250 with community support, particularly in relation to accommodating and supporting refugees after they complete the refugee resettlement programme;
- 3 agreed that, for the 2015/16 year 250 places be made available to resettle Syrian refugees in New Zealand, being the maximum number of places for which New Zealand can reasonably cater;
- 4 noted that Cabinet has agreed that, if the 150 transferee places within New Zealand's Refugee Quota each year were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), subject to Cabinet consideration of regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/13];
- 5 s 6(b)(i)
- 6 agreed that:
 - 6.1 the 150 transferee places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota be reallocated to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from Syria; and
 - 6.2 an additional one-off quota of 100 places for Syrian refugees be established on top of the 2015/16 Refugee Quota;
- 7 agreed that the maximum number of places, for which New Zealand can reasonably cater, be made available to resettle Syrian refugees in New Zealand in 2016/17, providing for 250 places;

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- 8 **agreed** that the maximum number of places, for which New Zealand can reasonably cater, be made available to resettle Syrian refugees in New Zealand in 2017/18, providing for 250 places;
- 9 **agreed** that the 2016/17 and 2017/18 places for Syrian refugees referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above be provided as an additional one-off quota of 250 per annum on top of any carried forward refugee quota for 2016/17 and 2017/18;
- 10 **noted** that the cost of the additional places for Syrian refugees is estimated to be \$48.8 million;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister of Foreign Affairs intends to provide an additional NZ\$4.5 million from New Zealand's 2015/16 aid budget to assist the countries affected by the Syrian and Iraqi humanitarian crisis, taking the total amount of aid provided to the region since 2011 to NZ\$20.0 million.

Out of Scope



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For Cabinet 7 September 2015**Potential response to Syrian refugee crisis - Recommendations**

- 1 **note** that Immigration New Zealand can accommodate up to a maximum of 250 Syrian refugees in its refugee resettlement programmes in 2015/16;
- 2 **note** that it will be challenging to house and provide services for more than 150 Syrian refugees in the 2015/16 year, but that it would be possible to cater for up to 250 with community support, particularly in relation to accommodating and supporting refugees after they complete the refugee resettlement programme;

- 3 **agree** that, for the 2015/16 year:

EITHER (preferred)

3.1 250 places be made available to resettle Syrians in New Zealand, being the maximum number of places, for which New Zealand can reasonably cater;

OR

3.2 150 places be made available to resettle Syrian refugees in New Zealand;

- 4 **note** that Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 transferee places within New Zealand's Refugee Quota each year were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), subject to Cabinet consideration of regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/13];

- 5 s6(b)(i)

- 6 **agree** that, if recommendation 3.1 is adopted (250 places):

6.1 the 150 transferee places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota be reallocated to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from Syria; and

6.2 an additional one-off quota of 100 places for Syrian refugees be established on top of the 2015/16 Refugee Quota;

- 7 **agree** that, if recommendation 3.2 is adopted (150 places):

EITHER (preferred)

7.1 the 150 places for Syrians in 2015/16 be made up of:

7.1.1 the 50 annual places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota approved by Cabinet for the resettlement of refugees from large-scale refugee crises; and

7.1.2 an additional one-off quota of 100 places for Syrian refugees outside the 2015/16 Refugee Quota

OR

7.2 the 150 transferee places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota be reallocated to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from Syria, with no additional one-off quota

OR

7.3 the 150 places for Syrians in 2015/16 be made up of:

7.3.1 the 50 annual places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota approved by Cabinet for the resettlement of refugees from large-scale refugee crises; and

7.3.2 100 of the 150 transferee places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota;

- 8 agree** that, if recommendation 7.1 or 7.3 are adopted, the remainder of the 150 transferee places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota be allocated to the Asia-Pacific region;
- 9 agree** that the maximum number of places, for which New Zealand can reasonably cater, be made available to resettle Syrians in New Zealand in 2016/17, providing for 250 places;
- 10 agree** that the maximum number of places, for which New Zealand can reasonably cater, be made available to resettle Syrians in New Zealand in 2017/18, providing for 250 places;
- 11 agree** that any 2016/17 and 2017/18 places for Syrians referred to in recommendations 9 and 10 above should be provided:

EITHER (preferred)

11.1 as an additional one-off quota of 250 per annum on top of any carried forward refugee quota for 2016-2019;

OR

11.2 as part of a new increased refugee quota for 2016-2019 (making the new quota at least 1,000 per annum on an ongoing basis);

OR

11.3 as part of a carried forward 2016-2019 refugee quota (50 places available to resettle refugees from large-scale refugee crisis situations and 200 general places, out of a minimum 750-place-per-annum quota);

- 12 note** that the Minister of Foreign Affairs intends to provide an additional NZD4.5 million from New Zealand's 2015/16 aid budget to assist the countries affected by the Syrian and Iraqi humanitarian crisis, taking the total amount of aid provided to the region since 2011 to NZD20 million.

Potential response to the Syrian refugee crisis

Background information for Cabinet, 7 September 2015

Screening of refugees

There are a number of measures in place to manage the additional risk to NZ security from refugees, before they are accepted for resettlement in NZ. These include selection processes and security checks by UNHCR, Immigration NZ and NZSIS and work with our Five Country Conference Partners.

UNHCR refers refugees based on its assessed priority protection needs. However, there is a degree of screening in the process, and refugees that do not meet all of the requirements are declined:

- Under NZ's 3-year refugee quota programme, the Government determines the regional allocation and categories of protection (for example, general protection, medical and women at risk).
- s6(b)(ii)
- Immigration NZ assesses whether "settlement in NZ is the right option for them" (so, for example, we don't accept refugees whose family size/structure means they will be difficult to accommodate).
- Immigration NZ carries out a health assessment and assesses refugees for reputational risk to NZ.

s 6(b)(ii)

Characteristics like religion and race could not be specified.

s 6(b)(ii)

An alternative programme for people in refugee-like situations (as opposed to UNHCR-referred refugees) could involve a different response or provide different status – e.g. work or student visa as opposed to permanent residence. This would need to be worked through, but special policies along these lines have precedent, e.g. with special visa arrangements for Fijians after the May 2000 coup and for Zimbabweans in the early to mid 2000s.

What do we do for refugees?

Quota refugees are given **permanent residence** on arrival in NZ and spend their first six weeks at the **Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre**. While there, they complete an orientation programme focusing on English language skills and information needed to help people live in NZ, including law and customs, shopping and cooking. They also complete physical and mental health checks to assess their settlement needs.

A number of government agencies and NGOs are involved in the settlement of quota refugees, including the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Development, WINZ, Housing New Zealand, the Tertiary Education Commission, NZQA, Careers New Zealand, Police, the Office of Ethnic Affairs, DIA and NZ Red Cross.

NZ Red Cross is contracted by Immigration NZ to set up services to support refugees after they leave the centre - including bank accounts, IRD numbers, Work and Income benefits (if required), housing and furniture. Each refugee or family is also assigned a social worker and volunteer support worker/s to help them for their first 12 months in New Zealand.

Refugees who are granted residence can sponsor family members to come to NZ and become residents under the **Refugee Family Support Category**. Each year there are 300 places available.

After five years as a resident in NZ, refugees may be entitled to apply for **citizenship**.

In addition to quota refugees, NZ considers claims from asylum seekers who claim refugee status when they arrive in NZ. Where appropriate, they too are initially accommodated at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre.

Cost

Immigration NZ says that the cost over 3 years of bringing in and settling a refugee is approximately \$81,000 per person. Total costs per year and overall for the maximum additional intakes that can practically be supported given current physical constraints are shown in the table below. The overall cost of the **additional** places over 2½ years is estimated at \$48.8m.

Intake / year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2019/20	2020/2021	All years
2015/16 extra intake (100*)	\$4.0m	\$2.1m	\$2.1m	-	-	\$8.2m
2016/17 extra intake (250)	-	\$9.9m	\$5.2m	\$5.2m	-	\$20.3m
2017/18 extra intake (250)	-	-	\$9.9m	\$5.2m	\$5.2m	\$20.3m
Total	\$4.0m	\$12.0m	\$17.20m	\$10.4m	\$5.2m	\$48.80m

* 150 places already budgeted for as part of refugee quota programme

What has NZ done so far for Syria?

Immigration NZ says NZ has resettled 121 Syrians and 379 Iraqis since 2011, with 17 more Syrians due to arrive in 2015/16.

NZ has provided \$15.5m in targeted development assistance in the region to assist Syrians and Iraqis affected by conflicts since 2011. This has included a joint NZ-Turkish school-building programme (three schools were constructed) in refugee camps close to the Syrian border in Turkey; NZD1m to deliver basic education and skills training to over 1,800 vulnerable youth in Jordan; NZD5m in 2014 to support UNICEF to meet health and energy needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon; NZD1m in March 2015 to the ICRC to help meet health needs in Syria; and NZD1m to help meet the needs of people affected by the Iraq conflict. NZ also provides several millions each year in core funding to humanitarian organisations (including the World Food Programme, UNICEF and ICRC, which are playing leading roles in the humanitarian response in Syria and Iraq).

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INCREASING THE REFUGEE QUOTA: OPTIONS AND INDICATIVE FEASIBILITY

1. Options considered:
 - Option one: 500 additional refugees over 2015/16 and 2016/17, or
 - Option two: 300 additional refugees over 2015/16 and 2016/17, or
 - Option three: 150 additional refugees over 2015/16 and 2016/17 (using the additional 10 percent allowed within current refugee quota policy).
2. There are three key considerations:
 - feasibility, timing and logistics, including timing of selection missions and arrivals in New Zealand
 - cost, including implications for other agencies and third party services, and
 - managing risk i.e. security screening of refugee referrals.

Feasibility, timing and logistics

3. We are already making arrangements for a selection mission to Lebanon in December 2015 to interview Syrian cases submitted by the UNHCR for the existing Refugee Quota commitments. There would be an ability to expand this mission to identify additional Syrian cases. Arrivals from the expanded mission could be included in the March and May 2016 intakes.
4. Settlement areas for Syrian refugees in New Zealand have generally been Auckland and Wellington. An increase in the number of Syrians resettled may require officials to consider establishing a Syrian refugee community in other areas in order to ease the pressure on settlement services, including housing.
5. A high level outline of the feasibility of each option is provided below:

• **Option one**

Option one would be very challenging to settle over a two year period but could be accommodated over three years with 100 arriving in 2015/16 and the remaining 400 in the other two years. The Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) has limited capacity at present due to the building of the new centre and there are severe constraints on operations as a result. The new building is expected to be ready by September 2016. There would also be constraints on the Red Cross's ability to respond to these increased numbers over a two year period and new resettlement locations would be required which would need a lead-in period.

Approximate costs to Immigration New Zealand would be \$5 million over two years. This covers selection missions (including offshore health assessment costs), travel to New Zealand, operational costs at MRRC, and 12 months refugee resettlement settlement support in the settlement communities, similar to the support the Red Cross is currently contracted by Immigration New Zealand to provide.

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- **Option two (preferred)**

Option two would also be achievable within the current six intakes per year. The 300 additional refugees would be split across the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years, with 100 in 2015/16 this financial year and 200 in 2016/17. This would require two additional selection missions. Approximate costs to Immigration New Zealand would be \$3.5 million over two years.

- **Option three**

Option three could be absorbed within the planned selection and intake schedule. Approximate costs to Immigration New Zealand would be \$1.5 million over two years.

Indicative costs

6. New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme is set at 750 places, with allowance for +/- 10 percent. Funding is provided on the basis of 750 arrivals each year.
7. Cost estimates for resettling additional refugees below assume approximately \$81,000 per refugee over the first three year period. This includes refugee-specific and mainstream funding, including immigration, health, education, employment-related services, income support and housing, averaged over the first three years of resettlement in New Zealand. This estimate is based on a 2012 figure, using the costs of the current selection model (UNHCR referral) with allowances made for inflation. The revised figures have not been tested with other agencies.

	2015/16 (\$M)	2016/17 (\$M)	2017/18 (\$M)	2018/19 (\$M)	Three year total (\$M)
Option 1: 500	4.0	18.1	10.4	10.0	42.5
Option 2: 300	4.0	10.1	6.2	6.0	26.3
Option 3: 150	3.0	4.6	3.1	3	13.7

Managing risk

8. s6(b)(ii)

9. Immigration New Zealand (INZ) works closely with our Five Country Conference (FCC) partners (Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and the United States) on best practices for assessing Syrian refugees, including exchanging views on the UNHCR survey of profiles, and potential security risks and exclusion issues.

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10. All refugee cases submitted for resettlement in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota undergo full assessment as part of the INZ decision-making process. This focuses on ensuring that the person is not a security risk or character of concern to New Zealand and that settlement in New Zealand is the right option for them. Those that do not meet the requirements are declined. As with all UNHCR refugees, INZ's ability to detect persons of character and security concern is constrained by the information provided to UNHCR by the refugees and its limited ability to verify this information.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



BRIEFING

Cabinet paper: *Further details about the reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota places for 2015/16*

Date:	13 August 2015	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0396 15-16

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Michael Woodhouse Minister of Immigration	Sign the attached paper	10am, 20 August 2015
Hon Murray McCully Minister of Foreign Affairs	Sign the attached paper	10am, 20 August 2015
Hon Craig Foss Associate Minister of Immigration	Copy attached for your information.	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Christine Hyndman	Manager, Immigration Policy, MBIE	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Floss Caughey	Senior Advisor, Immigration Policy, MBIE		
s 9(2)(a)	Acting Divisional Manager, United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth, MFAT		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

BRIEFING

Cabinet paper: *Further details about the reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota Places for 2015/16*

Date:	13 August 2015	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0396 15-16

Purpose

To seek your agreement to sign the attached Cabinet paper, which responds to the External Relations and Defence Committee's (ERD) request to report to ERD with a new paper seeking agreement to the reallocation of the 150 transferee places which includes details on the operational implications of the second option [ERD Min (15) 15/2].

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) recommend that you:

- a **note** that the second option ERD referred to was to reallocate 100 places to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis and reallocate the remaining 50 places to the Asia-Pacific region.

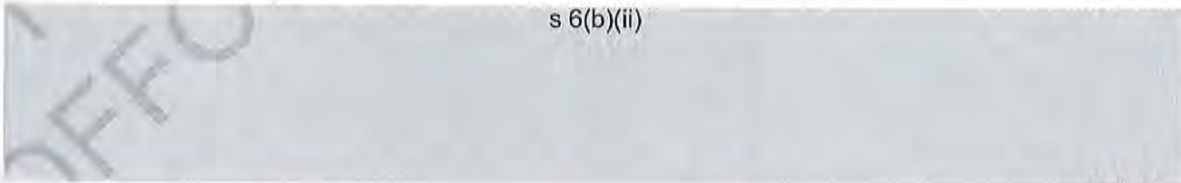
Noted

- b **note** that the attached paper:

- i) provides further information on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR's) processes on the referral of Syrian refugees for resettlement.

Noted

s 6(b)(ii)



Noted

- iii) recommends Option One, to reallocate all 150 transferee places to refugees resettled from the Asia-Pacific region.

Noted

c. **note** that the ERD is now scheduled to meet on Wednesday 26 August 2015 and, for it to be considered at the meeting, the paper would need to be lodged with Cabinet office by 10am, Thursday 20 August 2015.

Noted

d. **sign** the attached paper, titled *Further details on the reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota Places for 2015/16*.

Agree / Disagree

Christine Hyndman

Christine Hyndman
Manager, Immigration Policy
Labour and Immigration Policy
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

12.10.2015

A
Lucy Duncan
Deputy Secretary
Multilateral and Legal Group
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs

13.8.15

Consideration by ERD on 23 June 2015

1. On 23 June 2015, ERD considered the paper *Reallocation of the 150 Refugee Quota places for 2015/16* [ERD (15) 14]. That paper recommended Option One of the two options considered:
 - Option One: reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region, or
 - Option Two: reallocate 100 places to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis and reallocate the remaining 50 places to the Asia-Pacific region.
2. ERD did not agree to Option One and instead invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Immigration to report back in July 2015 with a new paper seeking agreement to the reallocation of the 150 transferee places, including details on the operational implications of the second option.

Further details provided regarding Option Two

3. As directed on 4 August 2015, the attached draft Cabinet paper recommends Option One: reallocate all 150 places to resettle refugees from the Asia-Pacific region.
4. The paper responds to ERD's request to provide further details on Option Two by explaining both the processes put in place by UNHCR and a core group of settlement countries which includes New Zealand, and those taken separately by New Zealand working with its Five Country Conference (FCC) partners, to address security concerns relating to Syrian refugees. It also provides further information on the processes used by UNHCR to select refugees for resettlement under the Refugee Quota, in line with priority protection needs.

New selection criteria

5. [REDACTED] s 9(2)(f)(iv)
6. Under New Zealand's current Refugee Quota policy, the UNHCR refers refugees on the basis of their priority protection needs. [REDACTED] s 6(b)(ii)
[REDACTED] s 6(b)(ii)
If Cabinet decided to use any of the 150 places for alternative forms of admission, there is a risk that this would be seen as a reduction of New Zealand's Refugee Quota.

7. [REDACTED] s 6(b)(ii)

Timing issues this financial year

8. [REDACTED] s 6(b)(ii)
9. It is still possible to implement Option Two this financial year using current policy. This is because UNHCR has already identified Syrian protection cases that could be referred.

Large-scale refugee crisis places

10. You may want to consider the allocation of the annual 50 places for large-scale refugee crisis situations. This does not require a Cabinet decision and, if you decide to allocate the places to Syrians, these could be resettled in 2015/16, provided Cabinet agrees to Option One (and a decision is made by the end of this month). If instead, Cabinet agrees to Option Two, it would be extremely challenging to resettle a total of 150 Syrians in the six months from January 2016.

Further advice on alternative forms of admission

11. The attached Cabinet paper is limited to the decision on the 150 places for transferees that need to be reallocated in 2015/16.
12. MBIE and MFAT officials will provide advice on options and possible criteria for offering residence to refugees and people in refugee-like situations under alternative forms of admission later this year. You could advise Cabinet on other forms of admission, along with advice on the next three-year Refugee Quota Programme, early in 2016.

Timing of consideration of paper

13. The ERD Committee is now to meet on Wednesday 26 August 2015. For the paper to be considered at that meeting it would need to be signed and lodged with Cabinet office by 10am, Thursday 20 August 2015.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Immigration
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cabinet

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE REALLOCATION OF 150 REFUGEE QUOTA PLACES FOR 2015/16

Purpose

1. This paper responds to the request from the External Relations and Defence Committee (ERD) to report back with a new paper seeking agreement to the reallocation of the 150 transferee places which includes details on the operational implications of the second option which includes resettlement of refugees from Syria [ERD Min (15) 5/2].

Executive summary

2. On 23 June 2015, ERD considered the paper *Reallocation of the 150 Refugee Quota places for 2015/16* [ERD (15) 13]. A Cabinet decision is required on the reallocation of the 150 places s6(b)(i)

ERD requested a new paper in July 2015 seeking agreement to the reallocation of the 150 places, and including details on the operational implications of the second option, outlined below.

3. The options for reallocation proposed in the paper considered by ERD on 23 June 2015 were:
 - Option One: reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region, OR
 - Option Two: reallocate 100 places to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis and reallocate the remaining 50 places to the Asia-Pacific region.
4. This paper provides details on the operational implications of Option Two, in terms of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR's) processes for the referral of refugees from the Syrian crisis for resettlement, and risk mitigation measures in respect of those refugees. It also contains further information on UNHCR's processes for selecting refugees within New Zealand's existing Refugee Quota policy which is based on defined criteria in line with UNHCR's priority protection needs.
5. s 6(b)(ii)
s 9(2)(t)(iv)
6. For 2015/16, we recommend that the 150 places be allocated to the resettlement of refugees from the Asia-Pacific region.

Consideration by ERD on 23 June 2013

7. On 23 June 2015, ERD considered the paper *Reallocation of the 150 Refugee Quota places for 2015/16* [ERD (15) 13]. ERD noted that, in June 2013, Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 transferee places were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the UNHCR, subject to Cabinet's consideration of regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/15]. A

In Confidence

s6(b)(i)

8. The options for reallocation proposed in the paper considered by ERD on 23 June 2015 were:
 - Option One: reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region, or
 - Option Two: reallocate 100 places to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis and reallocate the remaining 50 places to the Asia-Pacific region.
9. ERD invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Immigration to report to ERD in July 2015 with a new paper seeking agreement to the reallocation of the 150 transferee places and providing further details on the operational implications of the second option [ERD Min (15) 5/2].

UNHCR and New Zealand processes on Syrian resettlement

10. The UNHCR and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have called on Member States to increase Syrian refugee resettlement efforts and an UNHCR Core Group on Syria has been established for countries resettling Syrian refugees. New Zealand is a member of this Core Group. The group has considered issues related to resettlement, including refugee status determination, and issues that may prevent resettlement such as security concerns and exclusion issues. In addition, the group has reviewed the UNHCR's survey of profiles for the Syrian refugees assessed as most in need of resettlement.

11.

s 6(b)(ii)

12. Immigration New Zealand (INZ) works closely with our Five Country Conference (FCC) partners (Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and the United States) on best practices for assessing the resettlement of Syrian refugees, including exchanging views on the UNHCR survey of profiles, and potential security risks and exclusion issues. All refugee cases submitted for consideration for resettlement in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota undergo full assessment as part of the INZ decision-making process that focuses on ensuring that the person is not a security risk or character of concern to New Zealand and that settlement in New Zealand is the right option for them. Those that do not meet the requirements are declined.

Selection of refugees

13. In June 2013, Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 transferee places were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the UNHCR. The primary purpose of the Refugee Quota Programme is to provide protection and resettlement to priority refugee cases. Under the three-year programme, the Government determines the regional allocation and categories of protection (for example, general protection, medical and women at risk). The UNHCR refers cases that align with the agreed Refugee Quota Programme.

14.

s 6(b)(ii)

In Confidence

s 6(b)(ii)

s 6(b)(ii) If a decision was taken to use any of the 150 places for alternative forms of admission there is a risk that this would be seen as a reduction of New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme.

15.

s 6(b)(ii)

16.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

17.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Decision on 150 places in 2015/16 Refugee Quota Programme

18. The two options canvassed in the original ERD paper were:
- Option One: reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region, OR
 - Option Two: reallocate 100 places to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis and reallocate the remaining 50 places to the Asia-Pacific region.
19. Option Two is not recommended for the 2015/16 Refugee Quota Programme. Acceptance of Syrian refugees in the future, however, could further demonstrate New Zealand's support for an effective humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis (and would be in line with the UNHCR and UNSC calls for increased resettlement of Syrian refugees).
20. We recommend Option One, reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region, because it would:
- be consistent with Cabinet's reallocation decision for 2014/15, and
 - demonstrate commitment to sharing regional responsibility, in line with our efforts to counter people-smuggling through regional initiatives such as the Ball process, by enhanced settlement from the Asia-Pacific region – around two-thirds of the Refugee Quota Programme would be allocated to refugees from the Asia-Pacific region.

Consultation

21. The Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Social Development, the Office of Ethnic Communities and the Treasury have been consulted in the development of this paper. The Department of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet has been informed.

Financial Implications

22. There are no financial implications requiring adjustments to Crown baselines as the 150 places are within the current Refugee Quota Programme.

In Confidence

Human Rights Implications

23. The proposals are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Legislative and Regulatory Implications

24. There are no legislative implications arising from this proposal. A regulatory impact statement is not required.

Publicity

25. No publicity is planned. The UNHCR will be advised of Cabinet's decision.

Recommendations

26. The Minister of Immigration and the Minister of Foreign Affairs recommend that Cabinet:

1. **note** that following its consideration of the paper *Reallocation of the 150 Refugee Quota places for 2015/16* [ERD (15) 1], ERD:
 - a) noted that in June 2013, Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 transferee places were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), subject to Cabinet's consideration of regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/15];
 - b) noted the contents of the submission under ERD (15) 13, including that two reallocation options were considered;
 - c) invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Immigration to report to ERD in July 2015 with a new paper seeking agreement to the reallocation of the 150 transferee places which includes details on the operational implications of the second option;
- 3 **note** that there are stringent security and assessment arrangements in place for selecting all refugees and for Syrian refugees in particular;
- 4 **note** that, under the current New Zealand Refugee Quota policy, the UNHCR refers refugees based on defined criteria in line with their priority protection needs;
5.

	s 6(b)(ii)	
s 6(b)(ii)	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	
- 6 **agree** to reallocate all 150 transferee places to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from the Asia-Pacific region.

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs

_____/_____/_____/_____

_____/_____/_____/_____