



BRIEFING

Draft Cabinet paper: *Removal of the Family Link Requirement for Refugees Resettled from the Africa and Middle East Regions*

Date:	30 April 2018	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2863 17-18

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway Minister of Immigration	Agree to provide feedback on the attached draft Cabinet paper Agree to consult with your colleagues on the attached draft Cabinet paper	3 May 2018
Hon Kris Faafoi Associate Minister of Immigration	Copy for your information	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy	04 901 3855	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Kate Manners	Policy Advisor	Privacy of natural persons	N/A	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Office of Ethnic Communities; the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; the Treasury

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 Withdrawn |

Comments



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Purpose

This briefing provides, for your feedback, a draft Cabinet paper seeking agreement to permanently remove the requirement for refugees being considered for resettlement under the Refugee Quota Programme from the Africa and Middle East regions to have a family member already in New Zealand (the family link requirement) from 2018/19 onwards.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

a **Note** that in March 2018 you agreed that the requirement for refugees being considered for resettlement under the Refugee Quota Programme from the Africa and Middle East regions to have a family member already in New Zealand should be permanently removed from 2018/19 onwards [2428 17-18 refers]

Noted

b **Note** that officials have prepared the attached draft Cabinet paper (Annex One) for consideration by the Cabinet Economic Development Committee on 23 May seeking agreement to remove the family link requirement

Noted

c **Agree to**

Either

- i. if you are satisfied with the attached draft Cabinet paper (Annex One), forward this briefing and draft Cabinet paper to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Ethnic Communities for their consideration, in which case feedback on the paper will be required by officials by 9 May 2018

Agree / Disagree

Or

- ii. provide feedback on the attached draft Cabinet paper (Annex One) by 3 May 2018, which will be incorporated into the paper and a revised version provided to you for consultation with your Ministerial colleagues.

Agree / Disagree

Siân Roguski
Manager, Immigration Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

30 / 04 / 2018

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister of Immigration

01 / 05 / 18

Background

1. The requirement for refugees being considered for resettlement under the Refugee Quota Programme from the Africa and Middle East regions to have a family member already in New Zealand (the family link requirement) was introduced in 2010 [DES Min (10) 2/3]. Since then, it has been difficult to meet the Cabinet-agreed regional allocation of Refugee Quota places in these regions due to the challenges of identifying refugees with a family link in New Zealand.
2. In March 2018, you agreed that the family link requirement should be permanently removed from 2018/19 onwards [2428 17-18 refers].
3. Removal of the family link requirement needs Cabinet approval. A Cabinet decision is required in May in order for the change to be implemented for the 2018/19 Refugee Quota.

The draft Cabinet paper

4. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has drafted a short paper for consideration by the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 23 May 2018. The paper, which is attached in Annex One, seeks Cabinet agreement to permanently remove the family link requirement.
5. The draft Cabinet paper includes the following information:
 - a. the proposal to permanently remove the family link requirement from 2018/19 onwards;
 - b. background information on the Refugee Quota Programme and the family link requirement;
 - c. the impact of the family link requirement on the number of refugees that have been resettled from the Africa and Middle East regions since its introduction;
 - d. global refugee resettlement needs;
 - e. views of key stakeholders;
 - f. security and settlement considerations;
 - g. the steps that will be taken to implement removal of the requirement; and
 - h. upcoming Cabinet decisions on increasing the annual Refugee Quota to 1,500 places.
6. Talking points to support your discussion of the paper at the DEV meeting will be provided to you with the final Cabinet paper.

Consultation

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Office of Ethnic Communities and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet have been consulted on the draft Cabinet paper and support the proposal. The Treasury has been informed.
8. We are seeking your feedback on the attached draft Cabinet paper (Annex One). We also recommend that you forward this briefing, and attached draft Cabinet paper, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister for Ethnic Communities. You may wish to forward the draft Cabinet paper as it stands to your Ministerial colleagues; alternatively, you may have feedback that you wish to have incorporated before you consult with your Ministerial colleagues on the proposal.

9. In order to finalise the Cabinet paper before the lodgement date of 17 May for the 23 May DEV committee meeting, feedback that you wish to have incorporated before a revised version is provided for Ministerial consultation is required by 3 May. Alternatively, if you are comfortable to forward the draft Cabinet paper as it stands to your Ministerial colleagues, feedback is required by 9 May.

Next steps

10. We are working to the following timeframes for lodgement and consideration of the proposal to remove the family link requirement:

Key milestones	Timing
Draft Cabinet paper provided to you	30 April 2018
Feedback provided to officials on draft Cabinet paper	9 May 2018
Final Cabinet paper and talking points to support discussion at the DEV committee meeting provided to you	14 May 2018
Paper lodged for DEV meeting	17 May 2018
Paper considered by DEV	23 May 2018
Confirmation by Cabinet	28 May 2018
Announcement of the decision to remove the family link requirement (including communication with UNHCR)	June 2018

Annexes

Annex One: Draft Cabinet paper: *Removal of the Family Link Requirement for Refugees Resettled from the Africa and Middle East Regions*