



4 November 2021



Ref: OIA-2021/22-0178

Dear 

Official Information Act request for information relating to the Taliban's retaking of Afghanistan

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 30 August 2021. You requested:

- *Any information relating to the possibility of the Taliban retaking Afghanistan, since January 1, 2021*
- *Any information relating to the pace at which the Taliban might retake Afghanistan, or the date by which this might be completed, since January 1, 2021*
- *Any information relating to evacuating New Zealanders in Afghanistan or Afghans who supported NZDF and other NZ government agencies in Afghanistan, including but not limited to translators and journalists, since January 1, 2021*
 - *For the purposes of this part of the request, you may exclude correspondence after August 13, 2021 if this would lead to the request being refused under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act*
- *Any information relating to plans for the above, whether pre-existing or newly devised, since January 1, 2021*
 - *For the purposes of this part of the request, you may exclude correspondence after August 13, 2021 if this would lead to the request being refused under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act*

On 22 September 2021, we informed you that any advice relating to your request would be captured in the response you received from the Prime Minister's Office. On further review, some material that has been identified in scope of your request will need to be released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Information being released

Please find enclosed correspondence that was identified in scope of your request. We have decided to release this correspondence, subject to some information being withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a) – to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand,
- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons,

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information, and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) – as withholding the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security Group

From: s6(a) [DPMC]

Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 6:27 pm

To: Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)
@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: Afghanistan triggers for escalation

~~{SEEMAIL}{RESTRICTED}~~

Hi Marika and s6(a)

Here are the triggers for escalation based on the discussion that s6(a) and I had after our catch up:

- **Concurrent event of significance, requiring prioritisation or reprioritisation of resources.** This may be topical given the current COVID situation, and other concurrent events, and the commitment that the Government has made regarding getting people out of Afghanistan.
- **A breakdown of interagency collaboration.** For example agencies might be unable to reach agreement on how to progress the operation.
- **An agency requests escalation to a Watch Group.** This will need to be considered on a case by case basis.
- **Operational planning reaches a state that requires further oversight or significant decision making.** As the situation develops and the operation progresses, this trigger will evolve over time and may come from different agencies. Currently this likely sits with NZDF, MFAT and MBIE. However, as other agencies are brought in this will change.
- **The circumstances on the ground (Afghanistan or other location) changes, resulting in an untenable situation or elevated risk to New Zealand Persons or New Zealand's reputation or international relations.** This could be a further breakdown of security in Kabul, partner s6(a) support being withdrawn, or the host nation outside Afghanistan s6(a) withdrawing permissions.

These triggers are our early take on the overall situation, and will likely evolve over time, requiring further consideration.

Grateful for comments or thoughts.

s6(a)

Senior Advisor

National Security Systems Directorate

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Date: Thursday, 19 Aug 2021, 12:46 PM
To: Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>, Tony Lynch [DPMC]
<Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>, s6(a)
Subject: Afghanistan Watch Group

~~[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]~~

Good Afternoon Marika and Tony,

Following the ECC virtual meeting today on the Afghanistan situation, hosted my MFAT, NSSD have identified several issues regarding the Government response which we believe requires coordination from the wider system, through a Watch Group.


On the response, we can look at this in four phases:

1. Kabul/Afghanistan: Identifying New Zealand citizens, permanent residents and eligible Afghans who have assisted New Zealand agencies during our time in Afghanistan (refugees), and getting them on flights out of Kabul.
2. The transport of the above individuals to UAE, where the bulk of the New Zealand response (MFAT/MBIE) will be basing themselves.
3. The transport of individuals from UAE back to New Zealand.
4. The integration of refugees or reintegration of New Zealand persons back in New Zealand.

Currently the main focus of effort are phases 1 and 2, s9(2)(g)(i). We are ensuring however that strategic home land risks i.e. COVID and national security threats are being covered-off in phases 1 and 2. Phase 3 and 4 will need to be covered off at a later date and with a wider group of domestically focused agency. There may be a need to find another lead agency to manage the domestic phases.

NSSD has identified the following issues leading to potential risk, that require coordination and decision making at a higher level.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)



s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Many thanks

s6(a)

Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 19 August 2021 1:33 pm

To: s6(a) <[REDACTED]@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC]
<Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Afghanistan Watch Group [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks - a few questions first from me - do we have a timeline at all ie arrival of C130 at AMAB, first possible flight into Kabul? Can we assume that no other nations (eg Aust) would be bringing out other than NZ citizens/PRs (ie not Afghan nationals who meet NZ resettlement criteria)? Can you also give thought to who are the critical agencies to have present at a WG? And to give further thought as to what are the key issues/questions s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED] that need to be considered immediately- ie what's time kind - and what needs to be done but there is time and benefit (in terms of acquiring further information) from coming to these later?

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: s6(a) [DPMC]

Sent: Thursday, 19 August 2021 2:14 pm

To: Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC]
<Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Afghanistan Watch Group [UNCLASSIFIED]

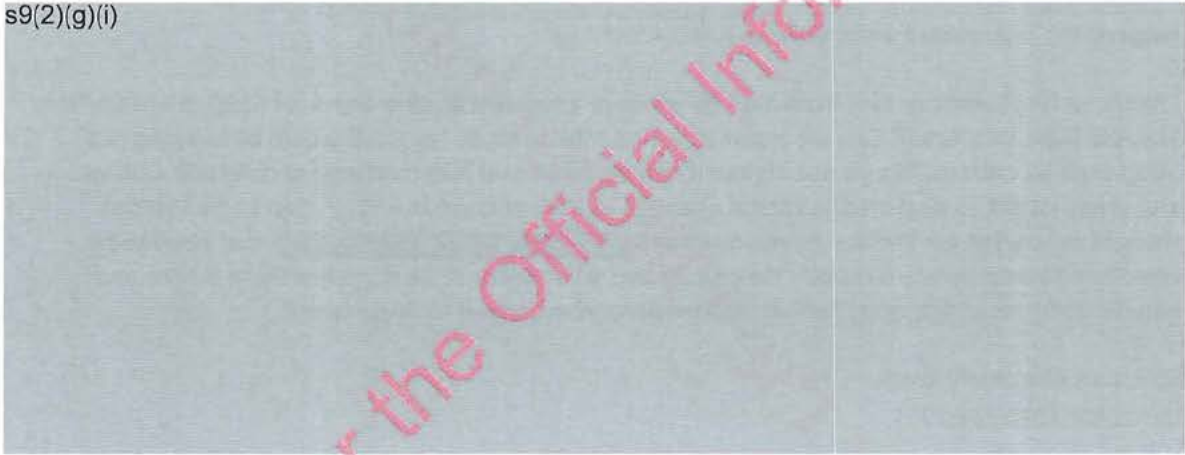
Afternoon Tony,

s6(a) and I have come up with the following based on your questions.

- The C-130 left New Zealand this morning, following a delay in diplomatic clearances. It will take 3 days to reach AMB (Sunday) and be ready 2 days after landing. Whilst further timelines are currently not available, this would indicate the aircraft would be ready to begin operations on Tuesday NZ Time. However, there is no detail as yet on how the aircraft will operate in and out of HKIA.

- Initial discussions on non-New Zealand persons pointed to them only coming out on a NZ Aircraft due to the potential risks of putting them on another coalition aircraft. However, this is one of the aspects that still require further planning by MFAT/NZDF/MBIE.
- Critical Agencies for WG s6(a) grateful for your thoughts on this)
 - NZDF
 - MOD
 - MFAT
 - MBIE (INZ)
 - MIQ
 - AOG COVID Response Group (concurrency)
 - NZSIS
 - GCSB
 - MoH
 - NZP
- Consider (Phase 3-4):
 - MSD
 - OT

s9(2)(g)(i)



Thanks

s6(a)
Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s6(a)
@dpmc.govt.nz

From: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 21 August 2021 3:56 pm
To: Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation 10.30 am Ops Meeting: Update 3

~~[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]~~

Dear All,

[See attached latest SITREP#10]

A quick update from this morning's meeting. Overall front-end planning is coming together:

1. Situation

- 30 New Zealand evacuees expected to arrive at AMAB this afternoon.
- Two groups of New Zealanders have also been evacuated by other partners to Qatar and to Uzbekistan.
- The family evacuated to s9(2)(a). They have bookings for flights to New Zealand on 22 August.
- 80 New Zealanders that have been unable to gain access to HKIA due to safety concerns.
- There is a strong chance the next regular ADF commercial charter flight back to Australia, scheduled for Sunday 22 August, could include NZ evacuees.
- The next earliest opportunity for NZers via a controlled evacuation is on 26-27 August. Destination Sydney.
- Australian agencies have observed the overall deteriorating health of evacuees.

2. Phases.

- The evacuation can be summed up as a 5 phase activity:
 - Ph 1 - Evacuation from HKIA to AMAB (NZDF supported by MFAT and INZ (virtually))
 - Ph 2 - Screening and support in AMAB (MFAT supported by INZ, NZDF, NZ Police (Europol LO) and possibly MoH)
 - Ph 3 - Onward travel to NZ via Australia or another country (MFAT supported by NZDF)
 - Ph 4 - MIQ (MBIE-MIQ supported by MFAT)
 - Ph 5 - Integration/reintegration (MBIE-INZ supported by MoH and social services)

3. Risks

s6(a)

- Potential for importation of COVID and other health risks. s9(2)(g)(i)

- MoH is working with MFAT and NZDF to get visibility of health of evacuees and Australian capacity to manage evacuees in AMAB

s6(a)

- NZers are unable to be evacuated from Kabul due to the security situation.
 - The volatile security situation in Kabul continues to act as a deterrent to NZers seeking evacuation, nevertheless some have managed to get to HKIA
- Possible: Lack of coordination around re-integration of evacuees when they arrive in NZ
 - MBIE-INZ has agreed to lead this activity and intend to apply their refugee resettlement approach to reintegrating NZ evacuees as well. This is new ground and will require the cooperation of the social services.

4. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Regards,

s6(a)

s6(a)

Senior Advisor

National Security Systems Directorate

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 22 August 2021 1:04 pm
To: Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation 10.30 am Ops Meeting: Update 4

~~[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]~~

Hello All,

[See attached latest SITREP#11]

Update from the 1030 Afghanistan meeting today (Sunday 22 Aug).

Summary: First evacuees to arrive in New Zealand on Monday morning (NZ citizens and their families). Overall, the end-to-end system is coming together.

Situation

- First evacuees (35 persons) to arrive in New Zealand on Monday morning, and go into MIQ s9(2)(b)(ii)
- Another 51 persons have been processed through HKIA and are awaiting flight to AMAB, this will likely include the first Afghan evacuees.
- MoH in discussions about sending people to Australia and/or AMAB to assist in the earlier identification of health needs of evacuees and therefore preparation. MoH to discuss with MFAT and NZDF.
- s6(a)

Phases.

- The evacuation can be summed up as a 5 phase activity:
 - Ph 1 - Evacuation from HKIA to AMAB (NZDF supported by MFAT and INZ (virtually)
 - Ph 2 - Screening and support in AMAB (MFAT supported by INZ, NZDF, NZ Police (Europol LO) and possibly MoH)
 - Ph 3 - Onward travel to NZ via Australia or another country (MFAT supported by NZDF)
 - Ph 4 - MIQ (MBIE-MIQ supported by MFAT)
 - Ph 5 - Integration/reintegration (MBIE-INZ supported by MoH and social services).

UPDATE: MBIE has agreed to lead this aspect.

Risks

- Following the PM's comments yesterday referring to thinking about next stage for those NZ is unable to evacuate (<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/ardern-expresses-concern-over-afghanistan-evacuation>). s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted] MFAT to take this forward as an action point.
- MIQ spaces: There are a considerable number of NZ Govt persons offshore with agencies considering sending more. The system needs to consider MIQ spaces and the risks associated taking up limited spaces in MIQ, which could be used for returning NZ'ers outsider the Afghanistan situation.'
- s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
[redacted]

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

[redacted]

Kind regards,

s6(a)

[redacted]

Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s6(a) [DPMC]
Sent: Monday, 23 August 2021 1:44 pm
To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; Marika Hughes [DPMC]
<Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz;
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz;
s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz;
Subject: RE: Afghanistan Evacuation 10.30 am Ops Meeting: Update 4

~~[SEEN MAIL][RESTRICTED]~~

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the summary and SITREP from the Afghanistan evacuation meeting today.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Situation

- First group of 35 evacuees arrived in NZ today.
- Currently 45 evacuees in AMAB/UAE and another 74 in HKIA.
- RNZAF C-130 flying into HKIA today for a collection.
- NZDF comfortable with the situation on the ground, describing it as good.
- System looking at putting NZ Govt representatives on the Australia to New Zealand flights to facilitate pastoral care.
 - s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- MBIE gearing up for the integration aspect (phase 5) for the evacuees.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)
Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 3:20 pm
To: Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC]
<Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)
@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>;
s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>;
s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Afghanistan Evacuation 10.30 am Ops Meeting: Update 5

~~[SEMAIL][RESTRICTED]~~

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the summary and SITREP from the Afghanistan evacuation meeting today.

Summary

The first evacuees are now in New Zealand s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Situation

- First group of 36 evacuees arrived in NZ yesterday and have settled into MIQ facilities.
- 3 individuals will arrive in NZ today on commercial flights.
- The next large group into NZ from AMAB via Australia is expected midday Thursday.
- Currently 119 evacuees in AMAB/UAE. s6(a)
- RNZAF C-130 flew into HKIA yesterday for a collection.
- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- There is approximately 96 hours left to evacuate persons from Afghanistan through this deployment.
- NZ Govt representatives will be present on the Australia to New Zealand flights to facilitate pastoral care.
 - MBIE will have 2 individuals, 1 a border and visa official and the other from refugee and migrant services.
 - NZ Police and MoH will consider also having a representative on the trans-tasman flights.
 - a broad MIQ exemption has been drafted for NZ Govt persons on flights from Australia to facilitate the above and ensure no MIQ spaces are being unnecessarily taken up.
- s6(a)
- MBIE gearing up for the integration aspect (phase 5) for the evacuees.

Risks

- A post-ops meeting occurred to discuss initial thoughts regarding persons who may miss this evacuation. MFAT and MBIE have started work/thinking on this and are producing advice to

Ministers with options s6(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Kind regards,
s6(a)

Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s6(a) [DPMC]

Sent: Wednesday, 25 August 2021 4:12 pm

To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; Tony Lynch [DPMC]

<Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz

Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz;

s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz

Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation Wednesday 25 August 10.30 am Ops Meeting: Update 6

~~(SEE MAIL) (RESTRICTED)~~

Good Afternoon,

Summary

Evacuation going smoothly, with a draw down coming likely at the end of the week.

Situation

- 199 persons have been evacuated from Afghanistan, with more likely to come out before end of mission.
- NZDF advise the window is closing for evacuation, and the next 24 hours being described as critical for getting individuals out, with NZDF looking at a possible withdrawal from HKIA in the next 72 hours.
- MFAT is considering messaging for post withdrawal, and the pathway for getting individuals out.
MBIE is organising a reception group for the evacuees for the Australian/NZ leg of the journey. This will provide a continuous NZ Government presence for the evacuees and facilitate future integration.
- MBIE to convene an all of Government group to address the integration.
- MIQ noted they were preparing spaces for 200 returnees in MIQ.
- s6(a)
- MoH noted a good information flow from HKIA and AMAB, enabling them to make informed assessments of future health needs. s9(2)(a)

Risks

- NZDF noted the issue of getting evacuation information to individuals in Kabul. NZDF and MFAT to work on communiques to evacuees outside HKIA to get them information on how to access HKIA and the ADF/NZDF evacuation.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Many thanks

s6(a)

Senior Advisor

National Security Systems Directorate

From: s6(a) [DPMC]

Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 6:20 pm

To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; Tony Lynch [DPMC]

<Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz>

Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz;

s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation Wednesday 25 August 10.30 am Ops Meeting: Update 6

Good Afternoon

Summary

The evacuation operation is drawing down, with NZDF to cease operations in HKIA imminently.

Situation

- 100 individuals were evacuated from HKIA yesterday, with more ready to be evacuated.
- NZDF are in the last phase of the operation, and are looking at withdrawing from HKIA.
- NZDF noted increasing risks to the deployment.
- Processing of individuals in HKIA and AMAB is at capacity.
- Australia PM and Minister for Defence have exchanged calls with New Zealand counterparts, discussing the withdrawal.
- MFAT is looking at updating their evacuation messaging, noting the withdrawal. There are working in conjunction with partners to ensure consistent messaging around how evacuation will continue when NZDF and partners are out of country.
- s9(2)(a)

Risks

- Ensuring consistent messaging around withdrawal and what it means for individuals still in Afghanistan, across Government, Ministers and to the public. MFAT are leading the thinking on how to continue evacuation after withdrawal.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

Senior Advisor

National Security Systems Directorate

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 27 August 2021 11:37 am

To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz>; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>

Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation Wednesday 25 August 10.30 am Ops Meeting: Update 7

Good morning,

[Afghanistan SITREP#16 enclosed]

Key Points:

- All NZDF personnel and remaining eligible evacuees inside HKIA relocated to AMAB last night drawing to a close NZs Kabul operation.
- No NZers are known to be injured as a result of the suicide bomber attack at HKIA
- NZDF is re-posturing to support uplift of eligible evacuees from hubs in the region.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Regards,

s6(a)

Operations Manager
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) [DPMC]
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2021 6:10 pm
To: Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Update: Afghanistan Evacuation – Accommodation and Settlement inter-agency group.

~~[IN CONFIDENCE]~~

Good evening Marika,

s6(a) attended the second meeting of the Afghanistan Evacuation – Accommodation and Settlement inter-agency group.

The group is working well together at this stage. Agencies followed through with actions from yesterday's meeting, and came to today's meeting with views they had canvassed from their wider teams. NEMA have also joined the group and are keen to stay involved/connected.

s9(2)(a)

Agencies also discussed the wraparound support that will be needed for the evacuees. Agencies were alerted/reminded that some actions which seem straightforward (eg opening a bank account) can actually be difficult and time consuming for people who have fled their homes. Needs assessments will begin over the weekend and so agencies will have a clearer picture from Monday as to what level of wraparound support is required.

Comms

MBIE have developed broad messaging which will go out soon to communities and others regarding what support is being provided. Agencies were asked to provide their comms teams details to MBIE so they can form a comms group if needed. We have shared s6(a) details with them.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Next steps

MBIE will draft advice for Ministers regarding accommodation options as well as potential costs. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i). MBIE will circulate this draft Monday and asks for agencies to provide consultation with a quick turnaround as well as let MBIE know which Ministers to include.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Have a lovely weekend.

With thanks,
s6(a)



Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s6(a) [DPMC]

Sent: Saturday, 28 August 2021 11:48 am

To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a)

@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>

Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz;

s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Afghanistan Evacuation 28 August 10.30 am Ops Meeting

~~[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]~~

Good Morning,

Summary

Significant number of returnees have arrived in New Zealand, with more in AMAB to be processed and transferred to New Zealand.

Key Points

- 148 persons arrived in New Zealand today, and are currently being processed and transferred to MIQ
- 132 persons currently in AMAB (processing continues so number is likely to rise).
- s9(2)(a)
- Flights are being scheduled from AMAB to Australia over the next few days, with transfers to New Zealand being arranged.
- MoH connecting returnees with NZ health services to ensure ongoing care. s9(2)(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(l)

Thanks,

s6(a)

Senior Advisor

National Security Systems Directorate

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 29 August 2021 11:15 am
To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation 29 August 10.30 am Ops Meeting

Good Morning,

Summary

It is likely that the main body of NZ evacuees at AMAB will repatriated by Wednesday. The management of COVID infections at AMAB is a developing concern.

Key Points

- 147 (not 148) persons arrived in New Zealand last night.
- Approximately 120-140 NZ evacuees are currently in AMAB (250 evacuees still to be processed but it is believed that none are NZers, PRs etc).
- Charter flights are being investigated with Etihad, with potential departure from the UAE on either Monday or Tuesday.
- MFAT is exploring options for assisting the repatriation of a small number of evacuees located at other hubs in the region. It is unlikely that the C-130 will be utilised for this task.
- s9(2)(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(a)

Ngā mihi,

s6(a)

Operations Manager
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) [DPMC]
Sent: Monday, 30 August 2021 12:19 pm
To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz
Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation 30 August 10.30 am Ops Meeting

Kia ora,

Summary

The last 163 New Zealand persons and visa holders in AMAB are due to be repatriated early Tuesday morning (NZT), travelling via Sydney via chartered flight.

Key Points

- Last large group of individuals to be repatriated via charter flight, departing AMAB Tuesday Morning (NZT). There will be some NZ Govt persons on this flight.
- The charter flight will arrive in Sydney and be met by MBIE and MoH staff, who will accompany the group back to New Zealand.
- s9(2)(a)
- NZDF has not identified any further requirements for the C-130, which will begin its return to New Zealand around 1 September.
- MFAT is looking at the next phase of this operation, which is the continued evacuation and repatriation of New Zealanders and visa holders. They will be calling on the wider system to assist with this in the future.
- s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Many thanks,

s6(a)
Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) [DPMC]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 August 2021 11:54 am
To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz
Subject: RE: Afghanistan Evacuation 30 August 10.30 am Ops Meeting

~~[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]~~

Kia ora,

Here is the summary from the Afghanistan Evacuation meeting today.

Summary

Evacuation is nearing completion with the last group of evacuees on their way from AMAB to New Zealand, via Australia.

Key Points

- There are no known New Zealand evacuees remaining at AMAB. MFAT and MBIE are still present at AMAB and will be doing final 'sweeps' to ensure all New Zealand evacuees have been repatriated.
- MFAT is transitioning to "phase 3", which encompasses those individuals in other countries in the region, and considering how to evacuate those still in Afghanistan.
- MoH are deploying a flight nurse to Australia, to provide continued medical care for the evacuees.
- The ECC (and the daily operational meeting) will be standing down in the near future. Agencies requested at least 1 more daily meeting, to ensure communication channels for the final evacuation flight remain open, and identify any extra individuals left in AMAB.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Regards,

s6(a)
Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

From: s6(a) [DPMC]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 September 2021 12:07 pm
To: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; Tony Lynch [DPMC] <Tony.Lynch@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz
Cc: s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz
Subject: Afghanistan Evacuation 1 September 10.30 am Ops Meeting

~~(SEE MAIL) (RESTRICTED)~~

Good Morning,

Please find attached the final summary of the Afghanistan evacuation operations meeting.

Summary

The final evacuation of 159 persons arrived in New Zealand this morning. The integration aspect of this operation will continue, however the evacuation phase of the operation is now over.

Key Points

- 159 evacuees arrived in Auckland this morning. There are no evacuees remaining in AMAB.
- NZ Govt persons will begin departing AMAB, with MFAT Consular leaving tomorrow and MBIE and NZDF to leave in the near future.
- MFAT are looking at transitioning out of the evacuation phase to a consular response. MBIE and MFAT are working together to address the issue of those individuals remaining in Afghanistan and those who managed to leave and are elsewhere in the region
- s9(2)(a)
-
- Going forward, meetings will be set up as required to address any issues that arise.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)
Senior Advisor
National Security Systems Directorate
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet