



Office of Hon Michael Woodhouse

Minister of Immigration
Minister of Police
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

MPOL 1232

16 December 2015

Mr Peter Pieruschka
peter.pieruschka@gmail.com

Dear Mr Pieruschka

On behalf of the Minister of Immigration, Hon Michael Woodhouse, I acknowledge receipt of your email of 5 December 2015 regarding Syrian refugees

While we acknowledge your concerns, the Government has taken the decision in light of the humanitarian crisis unfolding around Syria that has visibly worsened in recent times and felt this is an appropriate response.

New Zealand will not be accepting the people you have seen arriving in Europe on television. We will be accepting people who have already been mandated as genuine refugees by the United Nations.

The government is confident in our security screening processes and systems. We are not receiving thousands of people at a land border, but rather a few at a time, with advance notice and the ability to carry out robust security, risk and biometric checks by New Zealand government and security agencies.

These checks include on and off-shore screening and assessment, including full health and immigration risk assessments, and security and Five Country Conference partners (United Kingdom, United States, Australia and Canada) biometric checks.

Submitted cases that do not meet refugee policy, security and FCC checks, and health and risk assessment are declined. Almost 20% of referrals received from the United Nations are refused after screening by New Zealand agencies.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Deslandes
Private Secretary, Immigration