



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Attachment A

DECISION RECORD

Request Details

FOI Request FA14/07/00197
File Number ADF2014/23691

Scope of request

"We are seeking the release of information in the period from September 2013 until the date that information is released to us, of:

- *The number of individuals who have 'voluntarily returned';*
- *To what countries have they returned, and how many individuals have voluntarily returned to each country;*
- *Total amount expended by the Commonwealth since September 2013 in providing 'voluntary return' payments."*

Documents in scope

1. IMA Returns & removal as at 16 July 2014 (1pg)

Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate departmental records.

Information considered

In reaching my decision, I have considered the following:

- ✓ The *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;
- ✓ Departmental files and/or documents (identified above); and
- ✓ The Australian Information Commissioner's Guidelines relating to access to documents held by government.

Reasons for decision

I am satisfied that I have been provided with all the relevant documents to consider in my decision. I have considered the documents and am satisfied that no exemptions apply. Therefore, I am releasing the relevant documents in full.

Mel Heggart
Authorised decision maker
FOI & Privacy Policy Section
Parliamentary and Executive Coordination Branch
Department of Immigration and Border Protection
Phone (02) 6264 3131
Email foi@immi.gov.au

5 August 2014

people our business



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Attachment B

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS TO DECISION RECORD

FOI Request FA14/07/00197
File Number ADF2014/23691

1. Other documents;

| Pages | Description | Decision | Legislation |
|--------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | IMA Returns & removal as at 16 July 2014 | Release in full | |

IMA Returns and Removals FOI Data Request

As at 16 July 2014

FA 14/07/00197; ADF2014/23691

- *The number of individuals who have 'voluntarily returned';*
- *To what countries have they returned, and how many individuals have voluntarily returned to each country;*

| IMA RETURNS & REMOVALS SEPTEMBER 2013 TO 16 JULY 2014 | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Nationality | Voluntary Removal from Australia | Voluntary Return (BVE) from Australia | Voluntary Return from an OPC (via Australia) | Voluntary Return from an OPC (direct) | Total |
| India | 26 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 32 |
| Iran | 144 | 309 | 8 | 312 | 773 |
| Iraq | 27 | 47 | 0 | 28 | 102 |
| Lebanon | 4 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 21 |
| Sri Lanka | 37 | 61 | 1 | 3 | 102 |
| Vietnam | 86 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 87 |
| Other | 15 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 34 |
| Total | 339 | 427 | 10 | 375 | 1151 |

- *Total amount expended by the Commonwealth since September 2013 in providing 'voluntary return' payments.*

In the period September 2013 to 16 July 2014 a total of USD 2,914,819 has been spent on Reintegration Assistance (RA) for 1097 returnees. There were 54 returnees who did not receive RA.