



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Chris Penk	<b>Portfolio</b>	Associate Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Government Response to the Petition of Ren Monn Lee	<b>Date to be published</b>	23 April 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
March 2025	Government Response to the Petition of Ren Monn Lee	Office of the Associate Minister of Immigration
6 March 2025	Government Response to the Petition of Ren Monn Lee LEG-25-MIN-0018 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted	YES / <u>NO</u> (please select)
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## **In Confidence**

Office of the Associate Minister of Immigration  
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

## **Proposed Government response to the Immigration-related petition presented by Ren Monn Lee**

### **Proposal**

- 1 This paper seeks approval of the proposed Government response to a petition by Ren Monn Lee, entitled: *Family reunification for Ali and Nadir Mashal*.

### **Relation to Government priorities**

- 2 The Government is committed to ensuring that the immigration system continues to support the economy and labour market by providing businesses access to the workforce they need to thrive and grow our economy, contribute to New Zealand's international and humanitarian commitments, and support the security and integrity of New Zealand's borders.

### **Background**

- 3 The petition from Ren Monn Lee entitled *Family reunification for Ali and Nadir Mashal* was referred to the Petitions Committee on 15 October 2024. The petition requested:

3.1 *"That the House of Representatives urge the Associate Minister of Immigration to review his decision and allow Nadir Mashal and his family humanitarian entry into New Zealand."*

- 4 On 26 November 2024, the Petitions Committee referred the petition directly to the Associate Minister of Immigration for a Government response in accordance with Standing Order 380. This means a Government response must be presented to the house by 11 March 2025.

### **Proposed Government response**

- 5 I seek Cabinet's approval for the Government's response (Appendix One). I recommend that the Government highlights that I, as the Associate Minister of Immigration, declined to intervene in Mr Nadir Mashal's case.
- 6 Mr Mashal, his partner, and their children reside in Afghanistan. They wish to live in New Zealand with Mr Mashal's parents and three siblings who are permanent residents here.
- 7 I have declined to review Mr Nadir Mashal's case and this decision is not being revisited.

- 8 In considering the response to the petition, the Government took into consideration the Associate Minister of Immigration's discretionary powers to decide on individual cases.

### **Timing of the Government response**

- 9 Once a response is approved, it can be presented in the House on the next available sitting day.
- 10 A Government response to the Petitions Committee must be presented to the House by 11 March 2025.

### **Consultation**

- 11 The proposed response was consulted within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, which includes Immigration New Zealand.

### **Financial implications**

- 12 There are no financial implications in relation to the Government's proposed response.

### **Legislative implications**

- 13 There are no legislative implications in relation to the Government's proposed response.

### **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

- 14 There are no direct Te Tiriti o Waitangi considerations from the Government's proposed response.

### **Population implications**

- 15 There are no direct population considerations from the Government's proposed response.

### **Proactive release**

- 16 This paper will be proactively released (subject to redactions in line with the Official Information Act 1982) within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet.

### **Recommendations**

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** that, on 26 November 2024 the Petitions Committee referred the petition by Ren Monn Lee, entitled: *Family reunification for Ali and Nadir Mashal*, to the Associate Minister of Immigration for the Government's response;

- 2     **approve** the proposed Government response to the petition from Ren Monn Lee, attached as Appendix One;
- 3     **note** that once approved, the Government response can be presented to the House on the next available sitting day;
- 4     **note** that the Government response must be presented to the House by 11 March 2025;
- 5     **invite** the Associate Minister of Immigration to present the proposed Government response to the House, in accordance with Standing Order 380(4)(c).

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Penk  
**Associate Minister of Immigration**