

**From:** s 22(1)  
**To:** [Goledzinowski, Andrew](#); s 22(1)(a); s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1); s 22(1)(a); s 22(1)(a); [Jadwat, Ridwaan](#); s 22(1)(a); ( ) (ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a); s 22(1)  
**Subject:** FW: PPQ - Iran [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, CAVEAT=FOR-OFFICIAL-USE-ONLY]  
**Date:** Monday, 22 June 2015 12:50:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [PPQ - Iran - Ministers visit and consular dialogue.docx](#)

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Colleagues

Please find attached the final Iran PPQ that has been sent to FMO.

Many thanks for your input in the drafting process.

Best regards

s 22(1)  
( ) (ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Levant, Iran and North Africa Section

Middle East Branch

E | s 22(1)(a) @dfat.gov.au

T | s 22(1)(a)(ii)

W | [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 June 2015 12:44 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** PPQ - Iran [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, CAVEAT=FOR-OFFICIAL-USE-ONLY]

s  
22(1)

Thanks for your call. The final Iran PPQ has been cleared and is in the PPQ database (copy attached).

Best regards

s 22(1)  
( ) (ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Levant, Iran and North Africa Section

Middle East Branch

E | s 22(1)(a) @dfat.gov.au

T | +61 2 6261 2651

W | [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

# **Iran - Bilateral Relations: Minister's visit and consular dialogue**


## **Possible Question**

Has the Government negotiated a deal to return asylum seekers to Iran?

## **Talking Points**

- Confirm a delegation of senior officials from Iran visited Canberra last week (15-16 June) to commence a formal consular dialogue with Australia
  - this represents the first round in these discussions
  - no arrangement has yet been finalised (Australian officials hope to be invited to travel to Iran later this year to continue talks).
- Agreement to begin consular talks between Iran and Australia was a key outcome of my (Ms Bishop's) visit to Iran in April 2015
  - talks covered a range of issues, including immigration and people-to-people links
  - it is no secret that a priority for Australia in these talks is agreeing options to return people to Iran who are found not to be owed protection.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



If asked: Purpose of Ms Bishop's visit to Iran

- My (Ms Bishop's) visit to Iran was an opportunity to discuss a range of important bilateral and regional issues, including the situation in Iraq and Syria
  - it was in our clear national interest to do so.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked: Did Ms Bishop raise human rights?

- I raised Australia's concerns about Iran's record on human rights
  - the Government will continue to press these concerns, including bilaterally, in the United Nations in New York and the Human Rights Council in Geneva

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Background**

Ambassador Foley in Tehran has reported that the Iranian MFA has issued a denial that any agreement has been reached with Australia, following recent media reporting.

s 33(a)(iii)


s 33(a)(iii)

A delegation of eight officials, led by Director General for Consular Affairs Ali Chegeni, visited Canberra 15-16 June. Meetings were chaired by Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues Andrew Goledzinowski and included a focus on options to return IMAs to Iran who are found not to be owed protection.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)


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The Iranian caseload remains the largest IMA cohort. As at 5 June there were 660 Iranians in the Regional Processing Centres in PNG and Nauru. As at 30 April there were approximately 8,840 Iranians onshore, both in held detention and living in the community (from a total legacy caseload of approx. 30,000 IMAs). Iran has a longstanding and global policy of refusing to issue travel documents for those of its nationals who don't want them, which effectively prevents their forced departure.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**Prepared By:**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive Officer

MAD/MEB/LIS

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Edit Date: 22 June 2015 12:37:02 PM

Greg Ralph

Assistant Secretary

MAD/MEB/

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Ref: QTB15/500

**QUESTION TIME BRIEF (QTB)**  
**Amnesty Report on Australian Immigration Policy**

**QUESTION: Does the Prime Minister have confidence in the Foreign Minister's handling of Iran?**

**KEY POINTS:**

- . I have full confidence in the Foreign Minister and her pursuit of Australia's interests through the development of our bilateral relationships, including with Iran.
- . Confirm that senior officials' talks were held last week with a visiting Iranian delegation (15-16 June 2015).
- . Talks covered a range of topics including immigration issues and people-to-people links. No agreement has yet been finalised.
- . We engage with Iran on a range of important issues, including people smuggling, terrorism, regional issues and human rights.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

***If asked: is the Australian Government seeking to forcibly return people to Iran?***

- . We do not comment on ongoing confidential discussions between governments.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**BACKGROUND (Not for public use)**

A delegation of eight Iranian officials visited Canberra 15-16 June 2015. Meetings were chaired by Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues, and focused on options to return Illegal Maritime Arrivals to Iran who are found not to be owed protection. Ms Bishop formally announced commencement of officials-level consular talks in a joint press conference with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif on 18 April 2015 during her visit to Iran.

CONTACT: s 22(1)(a)(ii) PHONE: DIVISION: International Division DATE: 22 June 2015  
 CLEARED BY:

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

### *Iranian Illegal Maritime Arrivals*

The Iranian Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) caseload remains the largest IMA cohort. As at 1 June 2015, 8 650 Iranian IMAs were onshore awaiting refugee status determination in the legacy caseload, and 390 Iranian IMAs onshore have been found not to be owed protection and have 'finally determined' status. These people may be available for return; however, many can still seek further review either through Ministerial Intervention and/or applications to the courts. As at 5 June 2015 there were 357 Iranian IMAs on Nauru, with 5 receiving a 'double negative' determination. 303 Iranian IMAs were on Manus, with 75 receiving a 'negative initial decision'.

### **Media Interest**

In response to Michael Danby's article in the Australian on 22 June 2015 (*Bishop must explain her U-turn on Iran*) regarding Australia's relationship with Iran, we understand the Foreign Minister's Office is preparing an Op/Ed.

Following the West Australian article on 19 June 2015 entitled '*Canberra ready to deport Iranians*', various media outlets have published articles claiming the consular talks with Iran mean the Australian Government is on the verge of a historic deal to deport detainees. The issue of counter-people smuggling cooperation with Iran, including the return of failed asylum seekers, has attracted significant media interest in the past.