

17 February 2014

Our ref 325/11

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

By Post and Email to: [REDACTED]

Dear Minister

### **Cancellation of weekly asylum seeker briefings**

The Society's International Law and Relations Committee has raised concern with the decision to no longer hold weekly press conferences about the Government's border protection operations. These briefings were a valuable source of information for the public and individuals acting on behalf of asylum seekers – including lawyers (some of whom act in a pro bono capacity).

Furthermore, we note that openness and transparency in government action was a major election promise. As such, it is disappointing that this useful and well established communication channel has been put to an end.

We urge the Government to reconsider its decision to cancel these important briefings.

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**President**