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BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD



**NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE**
MANATŪ AORERE



COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

3 June 2021

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1. Status Summary

| Key | | |
|--------|--------|--|
| Symbol | Colour | Meaning |
| ● | Green | On track, no roadblocks, no significant delays anticipated |
| ● | Amber | Slow progression, some delays, some roadblocks present |
| ● | Red | Not progressing, on hold, significant delays |

| Focus Area | Sub-Focus Area | Last Week | → This Week | Agency | Agency Comment on Status |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|-------------|--------|--|
| Vaccine and Immunisation Programme | Purchasing and approvals | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers anticipated. |
| | Population definition and sequencing | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers anticipated. |
| | Distribution and inventory management | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are scalability challenges to building a more flexible network which are being addressed via co-design with DHBs. Some improvements have already been made, but this area will remain at Amber until technology is released on 8 June. Medsafe has approved new storage conditions for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. This change extended the refrigerated (2°C to 8°C) shelf life of an unopened vial from 5 days to 31 days, and will allow more flexibility in our distribution model, with particular benefits for distribution to sites in rural and remote locations. The provider portal is on track for release on 8 June 2021. This will streamline distribution and ordering, provide greater visibility of vaccine supply throughout the country and enable scaling for Group 4. |
| | Health workforce | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of Tuesday 1 June 2021, 6,662 vaccinators have completed vaccine training nationally and 2,531 vaccinators have been active in the programme. There are scalability challenges with the health work force. Work continues to scale this workforce through implementation of improvements to the surge workforce database and developing and enabling a safe and appropriate additional workforce. These actions are on track for scale in June. The Hands Up database has now gone live. This allows people to register their interest to be vaccinators and DHBs to scale their workforce to meet demand. |
| | Provider engagement | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pricing agreed. DHBs continue to deliver against national plan, with cumulative performance of 109% to the week ending 30 May. DHB plans for the period July to October have been reviewed by the Ministry and conversations between the Ministry and DHB Chief Executives and SROs to discuss plans is ongoing. |
| | Registration, appointment and immunisation | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trial of the National Immunisation Booking System in two DHBs has been successfully concluded and the system has now shifted to 'go-live' mode, in order to progressively onboard all remaining DHBs by 30 June. The new "COVID Population Identification and Registration" system is now live and will enable automatic NHI matching for 70% of appointments and greatly streamlining welcoming people at vaccination centres. This item is amber reflecting the challenging implementation time to bring all DHB's online and the criticality of this milestone for overall programme success. |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|---|-----|---|
| | Post event | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">No barriers anticipated.The automated-triage functionality within the COVID-CARM AEFI reporting system will go live on 8 June. |
| Elimination Strategy | Keep it out | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">No barriers anticipated.Trans-Tasman and Cook Island QFT have gone live, and lessons are being learned about management of international incidents. |
| | Prepare for it | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">No barriers are anticipated to the broader programme.Risks related to the vaccine programme are outlined above. |
| | Stamp it out | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Workforce remains under pressure, work ongoing with DHBs to support including capacity and capability review and development of surge workforce. |
| | Manage the impact | ● | ● | MoH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">No barriers anticipated.Process for embedding, tracking and reporting on reviews, recommendations, learning and continuous improvement activities being refined. |

Proactively Released

| Focus Area | Sub-Focus Area | Last Week | This Week | Agency | Agency Comment on Status |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--|
| MIQ Workforce | Vaccination of MIQ workers | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 1 June 2021, 95% of the MIQ workforce have received their second COVID-19 vaccine dose. MIQ-issued vaccination certificates continue to be issued periodically as vaccination status data is being updated. There were no exceptions for unvaccinated workers requested for the last week. This remains amber while provisions are put in place to check the vaccination status of all workers from 5 June 2021 to ensure existing workers have had two doses. Additionally, new workers will be checked to ensure they have received one dose before starting and have received their second dose within 35 days of first attending an MIQ facility. Further information is included in the report. |
| | Staff testing | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance onsite was 91% for the week 24 May through to 30 May 2021. Compliance figures are still being impacted by the cyber-attack on Waikato DHB (affecting compliance results for the three Hamilton MIQ facilities). Compliance reporting for these facilities is down to 19-20% (previously around 90%). If you remove the Hamilton data, then compliance is at 96% for the rest of the country (in line with previous weeks). Amber while work is underway to determine the approach to implementing saliva testing |
| Operations | Ventilation systems | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MBIE-led onsite testing of ventilation systems is complete for 28 of 31 sites, with the remainder to be complete this week. The Ventilation Work Group (VWG) have reviewed 24 of the reports. Status remains amber as we assess implications on the MIQ system from these reports. Next steps, leading to green, meeting with the MIFs to share the findings from the onsite assessments and to seek proposals on what, if any, work will be completed to address the findings. We have received an additional six proposals, resulting in a total of nine MIFs having provided proposals for ventilation remediation work. These are being reviewed. |
| | Renewing contracts | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 of 31 hotels have agreed to the terms of the agreement. This will remain amber until we close out the terms with the remaining hotels. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|----------|--|
| Reducing Transmission risk – Grand Mercure and Grand Millennium | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Grand Mercure and the Grand Millennium remain empty with no further returnees assigned to these hotels until the ventilation remediation work is complete. The step to take this towards green is completion of the maintenance work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maintenance work at the Grand Mercure has a new target date with work expected to be completed by mid-June 2021. MBIE has received a maintenance remediation proposal from Grand Millennium. The facility has already commenced the work that is estimated to be complete by mid-June 2021. Once the remediation work is complete MBIE will review the retesting results with a view to reoccupy the facilities as soon as practicable following confirmation that MIQ preferred ventilation conditions have been met. |
| Transition to cohorting | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohorting has been implemented with the majority of facilities having fully transitioned. The implementation will be monitored, and a review completed during June 2021. We will report back on these findings when available. Indicator will remain amber until the review is complete. |
| RSE workers | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This focus area is red as work to contract with industry to cover the additional MIQ costs has not been able to be progressed due to industry reluctance to provide a single counterparty (or reasonable alternative). The first date of arrival has yet to be formally confirmed by industry. Industry continue to progress their planning outside of the stated MIQ operational parameters set and without proper consultation with MIQ. We are now seeing issues arise at a regional level because of the above. MIQ is preparing communication/engagement material for industry to enhance industry understanding of MIQ systems as a foundation for trying to resolve these issues. More information in the report. |
| Fees collection / debt recovery | ● | ● | MBIE MIQ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the new invoicing platform is in place we have shifted this indicator to amber as we resumed invoicing on 31 May 2021. The Finance team is working through these groups of invoices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrival date from 31 May onwards – being processed via the new semi-automated invoicing platform. Arrival date from 25 March 2021 - being processed via the new semi-automated invoicing platform. This volume of invoices to be processed may result in returnees receiving invoices several months later, expressing some dissatisfaction publicly. Further information is included in the operational update of the report. |

Proactive Restricted

| Focus | Sub-Focus Area | Last Week | → This Week | Agency | Agency Comment on Status |
|------------------------|---|-----------|-------------|--------|---|
| Quarantine Free Travel | Cook Islands quarantine-free travel (two way) | ● | ● | MFAT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-way quarantine free travel is working smoothly, supported by regular communication between NZ Ministry of Health (MOH) and Te Marae Ora (TMO) public health clinicians. s(6)(b)(i), s7(b)(ii) Respective response frameworks will be discussed at a joint Border Easement Taskforce meeting this week (timing tbc). |
| | Niue quarantine-free travel (two-way) | ● | ● | MFAT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niue has confirmed its position that two-way QFT should not commence until sometime after its vaccination roll-out is complete, which is scheduled to commence for the general population on 10 June (NZT). s7(b)(ii) New Zealand officials will work with Niue on developing a joint plan, similar to work done with the Cook Islands, to progress towards two way-QFT commencement at a time Niue is ready to begin. The timing of the switch from 'amber' to 'green' will be able to be better assessed following these discussions. |
| | Trans-Tasman quarantine-free travel | ● | ● | MFAT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 1 June 2021, the Border Exception Ministers Group agreed to refer to Cabinet the creation of a border exception allowing a reciprocal arrangement with Australia, whereby 30 Australians per month (nominated by DFAT) would be allowed to travel through New Zealand and undertake MIQ here in order to return to Australia. They would be required to follow the usual processes, including obtaining an MIQ voucher before travelling. In return, Australia has advised that it is willing to allow up to 30 New Zealanders per month to go through MIQ in Australia en-route to New Zealand. Officials continue to work through operational details. On 25 May 2021, Ministers decided to pause QFT from Victoria and a notice was subsequently issued excluding QFT for travellers who had been in Victoria on or after 7:59pm on 25 May 2021. The decision to pause QFT from Victoria will be reviewed on 3 June 2021. |

2. COVID-19 Insights

2.1 Insights of Note

2.1.1 Singapore and Taiwan Recent Community Outbreak of COVID-19 – Snapshot of Approach

The Insights and Reporting Team in the COVID-19 Group have been analysing Singapore and Taiwan's approach to the recent community outbreaks of COVID-19. This is intended as a brief snapshot, and further analysis is available if required.¹

Singapore

Singapore is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak in the community, which began on 6 May,² with approximately 500 active cases at present.³ This was predominantly linked to the "Indian" variant, B.1.617.⁴ This variant has been judged by Public Health England to be 40-80% more transmissible than the version of the virus circulating at the start of 2020.⁵ The outbreak stemmed from Changi Airport when staff working in a high-risk area had meals in the public food court.

Approximately 200 people are currently in hospital; and several people have died.⁶

However, the outbreak is being managed, and Singapore's Prime Minister announced that barring another big cluster, the country should be on track to bring the outbreak under control and relax restrictions in ten days' time.⁷

Singapore has mandatory pre-departure testing (PCR) for travellers entering the country. They also limit passenger numbers from high-risk countries (for example only 25 passengers per day from India are allowed).

As a result of the community outbreak, they have strengthened their border measures, with a 21-day isolation requirement for most arrivals.

Singapore has a widespread double testing approach of individuals who present with acute respiratory symptoms: a rapid antigen test as well as a PCR test. They conduct both tests to enable any positive readings from the rapid test to be immediately isolated.

Contact tracing of close contacts is enabled by Bluetooth technology. Contact tracing begins within half-an-hour of a positive result. This contact tracing has allowed close contacts to be identified, communicated with, and isolated, in many cases, in less than one hour.

COVID-19 vaccinations are progressing. Approximately one-third of the population (2.1 million people) have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and about one-quarter (1.6 million) are fully vaccinated. Singapore has been using the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.⁸

The government had maintained various measures since previous outbreaks, and recently introduced new social measures. Measures include limiting the number of people allowed in shops and attractions (from 65% to 50% of capacity). Two social gatherings are allowed a day: with a limit of 8 visitors a day per household. Employers are also encouraged to allow staff to work from home. Face mask wearing is compulsory in public, and they require public social distancing of 1 metre in places like shops.⁹

Authorities are also reorganising Changi Airport to have fully separate zones, and terminals, for different risk categories of travellers.

¹ This is based on diploma ic-post reporting, unless otherwise stated. Personal communication from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 31 May 2021.

~~RESTRICTED~~

² Ministry of Health, COVID-19 Science Updates, 19 May 2021.

³ As at 2 June. Ministry of Health, Singapore, COVID-19 Situation Report, 2 June 2021. <https://covidsitrep.moh.gov.sg/>. Accessed 3 June 2021.

⁴ Ministry of Health, COVID-19 Science Updates, 19 May 2021.

⁵ Ministry of Health, COVID-19: Variants Update, 21 May 2021.

⁶ As at 2 June. Ministry of Health, Singapore, COVID-19 Situation Report, 2 June 2021. <https://covidsitrep.moh.gov.sg/>. Accessed 3 June 2021.

⁷ The Straits Times "S'pore should be able to ease COVID-19 rules after June 13 if community cases fall further: PM Lee". May 31 2021.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/spore-should-be-able-to-ease-covid-19-restrictions-after-june-13-if-community-cases>. Accessed 4 June 2021.

⁸ Ministry of Health, Singapore, COVID-19 Vaccination. <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/vaccination>. Accessed 3 June 2021.

⁹ Ministry of Health, Singapore, FAQ's – Safe Distancing Measures During Phase Two. [https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/faqs/faqs---safe-distancing-measures-during-phase-two-\(heightened-alert\)](https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/faqs/faqs---safe-distancing-measures-during-phase-two-(heightened-alert)). Accessed 3 June 2021.

New technology is being trialled, such as a COVID-19 breathalyser testing machine, which returns test results within 60 seconds, and is being used at the land-border with Malaysia.

Taiwan

The recent COVID-19 community outbreak in Taiwan began on 16 May.¹⁰ Case numbers in Taiwan are approximately 9,000 at present, with the majority of those in the last few weeks.¹¹ Over 100 people have died. This has predominantly been linked to the “UK” variant, B.1.1.7,¹² and stemmed from airline staff staying at the same hotel as domestic tourists. The B.1.1.7 variant is 40-80% more transmissible than the version of the virus circulating at the start of 2020.¹³

Until a few weeks ago, there had been less than 100 cases of community transmission in Taiwan since the start of the pandemic.

Taiwan’s quarantine and self-isolation regime requires most arrivals to complete a 14-day quarantine. However, until mid-January, arrivals were able to quarantine at home with other family members provided they had their own room and bathroom. All arrivals are now required to quarantine in either a designated hotel, central facility, or at home if there are no other residents or only with members of a group they arrive with.

There are exceptions to the quarantine requirements, such as airline staff, which caused the current outbreak.

Taiwan has social measures, such as facemask wearing, temperature screening on public transport and at building entrances, and social distancing.

Taiwan has progressively increased its alert levels: mask wearing is now required in public, gatherings are limited to 5 people indoors and 10 people outdoors, public venues are closed,¹⁴ and people are being asked to stay at home and only go out for essential items. This will extend until June 14.

There have been approximately 455,000 COVID-19 tests completed since the pandemic began. This is about a quarter of the tests that New Zealand has completed,¹⁵ and Taiwan has a population of approximately 23 million people. The decision not to test widely was based on concerns regarding the impact of false results. The concern was that if a false negative was returned it would lead to complacency and increase the risk of transmission. The cost of widespread testing was also a factor.

Taiwan has recently introduced community testing sites in transmission hot spots. Many of these are ‘rapid testing’ sites, using the rapid antigen tests which provide an indicative result that must be confirmed by a PCR test. People who test positive in a rapid test are advised to self-isolate at home until their results are confirmed. There are delays due to testing capacity and processing ability.

Contact tracing has also struggled with the number of new cases. New staff are being trained to assist; however, it takes time to upskill people.

Taiwan previously hospitalised all confirmed cases, however now confirmed cases are not being hospitalised due to pressures on the health system. Confirmed cases that are not experiencing severe symptoms have been advised to stay at home until directed to a central quarantine facility or hospital.

s6(a)

Communication regarding the spread of the outbreak and expectations under different alert levels has in some instances created confusion, and misinformation has been spreading.

s6(a)

Approximately 1%

of the population having had a first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

Thank you to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Health, and the National Assessments Bureau for contributions to this insights section.

¹⁰ Ministry of Health, COVID-19 Science Updates, 19 May 2021.

¹¹ Taiwan Centers for Disease Control. Confirmed cases. <https://www.cdc.gov.tw/En>. Accessed 3 June 2021.

¹² Ministry of Health, COVID-19 Science Updates, 19 May 2021.

¹³ Ministry of Health, COVID-19: Variants Update, 21 May 2021.

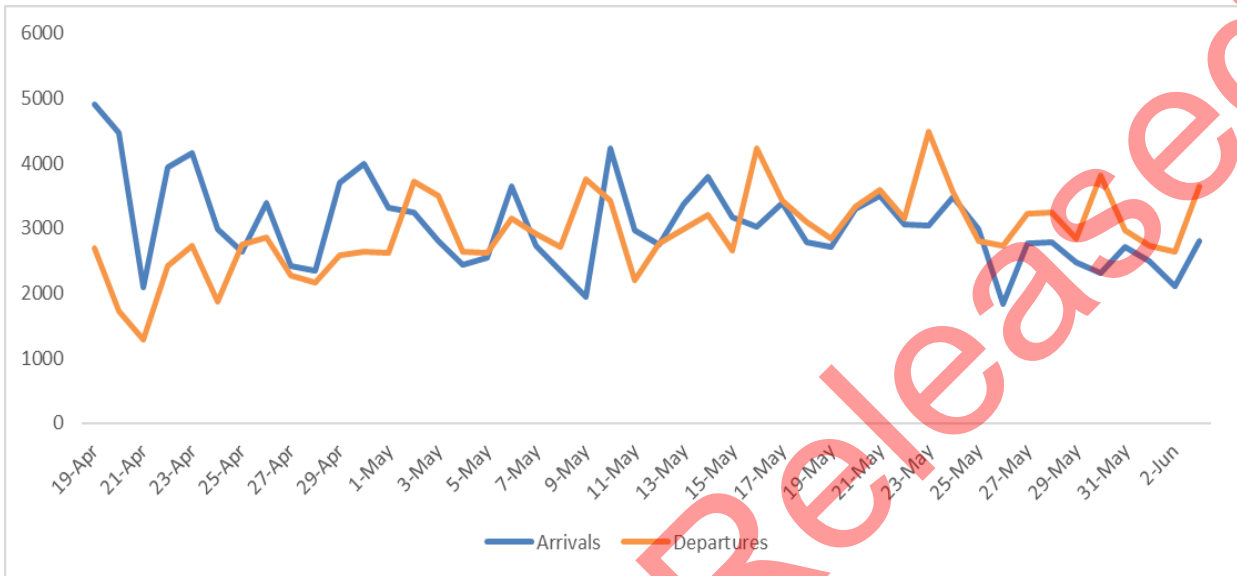
¹⁴ The Straits Times. Taiwan reports rise in COVID-19 cases, extends raised alert level to June 14. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/taiwan-reports-rise-in-covid-19-cases-extends-raised-alert-level-to-june-14>. Accessed 3 June 2021.

¹⁵ Ministry of Health, Testing for COVID-19. <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/testing-covid-19>. Accessed 2 June 2021.

2.1.2 International Flight Arrivals and Departures

For the period 19 April to 3 June (following the opening of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia) there were a total of 139,735 arrivals to New Zealand, and 135,117 departures.¹⁶ This is 4,618 more people that arrived into New Zealand than departed. This is illustrated in figure 1.

Figure 1: International Flight Arrivals and Departures – 19 April to 3 June



A breakdown of these is shown below in figure 2 (arrivals) and figure 3 (departures).

Figure 2: International Flight Arrivals – 19 April to 3 June



¹⁶ Commercial Flights. New Zealand Customs Service. Personal Communication. 4 June 2021.

Figure 3: International Flight Departures – 19 April to 3 June



Thank you to the New Zealand Customs Service for contributions to this insights section.

Proactively Released

3. Ministry of Health Weekly Report



3.1 Policy/Programme Updates

3.1.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As of 1 June 2021, 668,115 vaccinations have been delivered, including 235,606 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, 9 percent are Māori, 6 percent are Pasifika, and 19 percent are Asian. 356 sites were active on 1 June 2021.

The allocation plan for the next seven days is for 89,930 doses across New Zealand.

DHB planning

The Ministry of Health has received all of the DHB plans for the period of 1 July to early October 2021. The plans have been reviewed by the Ministry of Health and assessed to ensure they demonstrate the DHBs ability to deliver at scale, have an established workforce to meet demand, and focus strongly on equity. Conversations between the Ministry and DHB Chief Executives and Senior Responsible Officers (SROs) to discuss their plans are ongoing and expected to be finalised this week. The plans themselves will be finalised after direction is received from Cabinet on the segmentation for Group 3 and 4 (see the point below for further detail).

Customer experience and segmentation for Group 3 and 4

As the vaccination programme matures, we need to continue to ensure that all New Zealanders are informed of when they can be vaccinated. We have identified four options for segmentation of the population to ensure a clear communication approach for everyone while aligning with critical success factors of the programme. Direction has been sought from Vaccine Ministers and recommendations will be included in the Cabinet paper that is expected to be submitted on 14 June 2021.

General practice and pharmacy rollout

The final service design delivery blueprint for existing community-based vaccination providers has been published. Weekly meetings with pharmacy practice leads will continue, with one attendee at this meeting from the Pharmaceutical Society, who represent all pharmacists. Regular engagement with primary health organisations includes fortnightly community provider programme webinars, a fortnightly newsletter and fortnightly meetings with the President and Clinical Director of Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

Update on engagement plan with ports/wider border workers

Conversations with unions are helping to identify priority areas for engagement, as well as highlighting the extremely wide-ranging levels of uptake across different sites. The Ministry of Health met with union representatives on 27 May 2021 to canvass concerns and explore how the conversations can move from health-policy and compliance conversations to a commercial vaccinated workforce. Following this meeting, the Ministry of Health is waiting on feedback from the union representatives to determine next actions.

Equity

Māori COVID-19 vaccine rollout delivery and investment

42,897 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents 10 percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 1 June 2021.

This week our equity regional leads have begun to inform Māori health providers of two new funding opportunities aiming to improve equity outcomes of the vaccination campaign. The first of these is Māori workforce funding, which will be used to increase the number of Māori vaccinators. The second is Māori Champions funding, which will be used to build trust and confidence in communities by using Champions to promote and advocate the uptake of COVID-19 vaccine amongst Māori.

Disability

The disability supported decision-making and consent guidance and tool has been finalised and circulated to stakeholders, including providers, advocacy groups and DHBs for implementation. The guidance and tool focus decision making on will and preference so that disabled people have control of their life.

Technology

Last week saw a number of technology milestones reached including the go-live of the COVID-19 Population Identification and Registration (CPIR) system, which will enable automatic NHI matching for around 70 percent of vaccination appointments, as well as the “Hands up to join our Vaccination team” portal that will support matching potential workforce with DHBs to rapidly scale the workforce.

The CPIR is a database with artificial intelligence capabilities to match identities and parse the population, as opposed to the CIR which is the general registration system where vaccination events are recorded.

The auto-triage functionality within the COVID-CARM system has now been successfully released to production. This is a significant milestone and final element of system development critical to scale-up operations to monitor and report on adverse events following immunisation.

We remain on track for the release of the new distribution and inventory system on 8 June 2021. This system will streamline distribution and ordering, provide greater visibility of vaccine throughout the country and enable scaling for Group 4.

National Immunisation Booking System (NIBS) readiness

Following a readiness assessment on the pilot sites used, approval was given by the CVIP Steering Group to shift from a ‘pilot’ phase to ‘go-live’ on the NIBS. The Ministry of Health is working to finalise the plans for six DHBs that will be onboarded in the first two weeks of June 2021.

The system will be known as “Book my Vaccine”.

Workforce

As of 1 June 2021, 6,662 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 2,531 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

From this week, all people with clinical experience who expressed interest in supporting the vaccination programme on the Ministry of Health’s Hands Up vaccination team database will be contacted to confirm that they are still ready, willing and available to vaccinate. Those interested in vaccinating will be reconnected to their local DHB for a recruitment discussion.

Distribution and inventory management

As at end of day 1 June 2021, we have made 953 deliveries to sites across the country. This equates to delivery of 113,929 vials or 683,574 doses.

A Logistics and Distribution Technology Planning Day took place on 2 June 2021 with DHB logistics leads, pharmacy managers, and change/training managers. The day showcased the new CIR modules and the rollout plans for June and July 2021. The Ministry of Health will provide all training collateral, including quick guides, eLearns, and Logistics and IT helpdesk support. Using these resources, DHBs will take the lead in training vaccination sites within their region.

Communications

The Ministry of Health continues to work closely with DHBs to plan a consistent and integrated national and regional campaign to support the launch of Group 3. The focus is ensuring DHBs are accurately communicating the “who, when and how” messages relevant to the Group 3 rollout in their regions, to ensure we can meet the expectations of those people in the broad cohort.

Rollout of the vaccine to Polynesia

Cook Islands

Vaccination in the Cook Islands continues with the completion of the first dose administered in Rarotonga. Aitutaki is set to begin later this week. Up to 30 May 2021 a total of 8,045 vaccines have been administered in Cook Islands.

Niue

The initial consignment of vials is set to leave New Zealand on 2 June 2021 to vaccinate their vaccinators. General population rollout is expected to commence on 10 June 2021. The exchange of letters took place on 28 May 2021 between New Zealand and Niue.

Next steps

We will provide you with a further update in the next Weekly Report.

3.2 Technical Advisory Group: Update

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 25 May 2021. The key points that were discussed were:

- **Research project on BMI and immunogenicity:** CVTAG discussed a research proposal to evaluate the effect of Body Mass Index (BMI) and arm size on intramuscular vaccine delivery and immunogenicity. The study will investigate vaccine delivery into the deltoid muscle by using ultrasound to measure the distance from the skin to the muscle. Patient finger prick blood samples will then be analysed for immunogenicity. This will help to understand the appropriate needle length required for people with different BMIs. CVTAG approved the general approach and provided feedback on the need for data on people with extremely high BMIs, the impact of race/ethnicity on the outcomes, and the need for comparing the proposed method with the approach that is currently used. CVTAG requested that the research be shared as it becomes available.
- **Decision to use Pfizer for group three:** The Ministry of Health sought advice from CVTAG regarding any updates for the decision to use the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as New Zealand moves to vaccinating group three (people at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19). CVTAG agreed that the safety and effectiveness data, to date, regarding the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is consistent with previous evidence, with no new concerns being raised about using this vaccine for the wider rollout to group three. CVTAG confirmed the decision to use the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for group three and the wider general population in New Zealand.
- **Pregnancy advice:** CVTAG reviewed the current recommendations for the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy. A summary of research and safety data was provided by the Immunisation Advisory Centre, with statements from overseas peak bodies. CVTAG agreed that the current recommendation should be revised to include more clarity. It was noted that this will be followed up with a complex engagement process with various stakeholders. CVTAG recommended that pregnant persons are routinely offered COVID-19 vaccination at any stage of pregnancy.

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on 28 May 2021. The key points that were discussed were:

- TAG was updated on the vaccine rollout, and draft documents on the Elimination Strategy and progress with Reconnecting New Zealand. The key science questions that underpin this discussion were also shared.
- TAG provided feedback on the draft documents and issues to consider in terms of vaccination rollout and Reconnecting New Zealand:
 - TAG encouraged research through serology testing on returnees to assess antibody levels, and a draft proposal is being drawn up by ESR for consideration by the Ministry.
 - It was noted that the resilience of health workforce needs to be captured within the Reconnecting framework, and that it should incorporate behavioural surveillance. TAG was updated on the

structural changes in the Science and Insights Group with the new Manager for Behavioural Insights taking a lead on the Insights component of this work.

- It was advised that a broader discussion is needed on therapeutics, where there is a need and role for national clinical guidance.
- The Science and Technical Advisory also shared some of the products and services that it has been developing that are now published on the Ministry's website.
- TAG encouraged the Ministry to develop a research and development strategy for the response to refine what we are currently doing and ensure there is a legacy for our work.

3.3 74th World Health Assembly

This item updates you on the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA), which took place from 25 May to 1 June 2021. As expected, the global response to COVID-19 was the main focus of this WHA. The key discussion points included:

- the next steps on the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR; co-chaired by Rt Hon Helen Clark)
- a call for increased COVID-19 vaccine donation. There were calls for high income countries to donate more doses
- divergent views on the need for a pandemic treaty
- the theory of a COVID-19 leak from a lab was raised again.

s6(a)

New Zealand co-sponsored or delivered statements on a wide range of priority topics per the briefing provided to your office in advice and consistent with our wider global health priorities.

Next steps

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade are working on joint advice to you, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister on the proposed New Zealand position and strategy following the IPPR review. This will be completed in the week of 14 June 2021.

3.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 3 June 2021

| Date | Activity | Lead agency | Comms material | Ministerial involvement |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| 3-June-2021 | Release of MIQ reviews | MBIE | Media stand up with head of MIQ (Megan Main) and Director-General of Health. Press release and website content. | No |

3.5 Upcoming Publications

| Title | Date | Context |
|--|-------------|---|
| Proactive release: Qualitative insights from Pacific families and frontline workers' experiences of COVID-19 (the report) | 7 June 2021 | <p>The report explores Pacific peoples' lived experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic during the two significant COVID-19 outbreaks in New Zealand in 2020 (namely, the first outbreak on 25 March and the second Auckland outbreak on 11 August), to understand and learn from their knowledge, experiences, attitudes, hopes, and expectations of health and welfare services.</p> <p>On 1 April 2021, a briefing outlining these findings was presented to you, with the report attached (HR 20210745). The briefing also noted the Ministry of Health's intent to proactively release the Report shortly after.</p> <p>You will receive a memo shortly updating you on next steps regarding the proactive release of the report. The Ministry of Health's assessment is that publishing the report is low risk, and that it is in the public interest to release it.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health can support your office if there is any media interest arising from this proactive release.</p> |

Proactively Released

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Top Items to Note

4.1.1 Staff testing update – compliance statistics for 24-30 May 2021

- The ransomware attack on the Waikato DHB continues to cause delays in swab testing results. This delay has again impacted this week's compliance figures for Waikato based border workers in MIQ.
- Reporting from BWTR shows that 4,010 people undertook work in our facilities last week and of these:
 - 3,578 (91%) were compliant with their obligations;
 - 364 (9%) were overdue;
 - 68 were still to have their NHI-matched with 47 of these workers being set up in the BWTR in the last 7 days;
 - There are just 16 workers recorded as not having previously had a swab.
- If we exclude the three Hamilton facilities, then compliance sits at 96% with 155 workers (4%) overdue for a swab.
- These compliance figures relate to workers who were on site during the reporting period. This differs to MoH dashboard reporting which captures all MIQ workers in BWTR that are flagged as 'Active'. There were 6,327 'Active' workers in the last MoH report compared to 4,010 workers who were on site last week. Our concern is there are two similar sets of data which may cause confusion. We are meeting with MoH to discuss reporting going forward.
- A 'spot check' was completed to check that sign-in data in Whos-on-Location (WOL) matches who was rostered on to work. FIRST security provided MBIE with its staff work roster for two MIQ facilities from 24-30 May 2021. The roster information was matched against sign-in data from the WOL application and found there was only one instance where an individual hadn't signed in which is being looked into further.

4.2 Vaccination of frontline staff update

Employers are still working through employment processes with eight unvaccinated workers, and these workers are not able to work in the MIQF while this process is occurring.

As at 1 June 2021, 5% of the MIQ Workforce are yet to receive the second dose of the vaccination. We will be receiving an updated report on Friday 4 June 2021, ahead of the Saturday 5 June 2021 deadline for when all MIQ workers must have received their second dose of the vaccine.

According to BWTR, the total number of unvaccinated workers on site was 97 (2% of the workforce). Follow up on these records showed that of these 97 workers, 68 have yet to be NHI matched and have their vaccination status confirmed in BWTR which leaves 29 where their vaccination status is unknown. Follow ups with employers have confirmed these people were vaccinated, but NHI matching issues and integration issues between BWTR and the Covid Inoculation Register (CIR) mean this data is not being pulled through to BWTR to complete assurance reporting.

Automated updates into BWTR of Worker Vaccination status are not yet available, requiring manual updates from MoH staff until this functionality is delivered in early June 2021.

Please note, our vaccination reporting differs to the MoH dashboard reporting. Our reporting is in relation to those workers that are currently working on site at facilities. MoH reporting captures all MIQ workers in BWTR that are flagged as 'Active', which includes a number of people who haven't visited a site for some time, (and might not again any time soon). Our on-site processes continue to focus on proof of vaccination. We have discussed with MoH how we align our reporting moving forward and have agreed a joined up approach for our next report.

Over the last month there has been regular communication on the need to receive a second dose of the vaccine before 11.59pm 4 June 2021. Workers will need to provide proof they have received both doses of the vaccine or they will not be granted entry. New workers who started after 1 May 2021 will need to have their first dose before starting work, and then have their second dose within 35 days from the date they started work. New workers will also need to confirm they are within those 35 days when signing in to WOL. MIQ Workforce Testing Team will be running regular assurance reports to confirm the vaccination status of all workers who attend an MIQ facility and follow up immediately with any new worker who has not received a second dose within 35 days of commencing employment.

4.2.1 Hui wānanga

- MIQ is hosting a hui wānanga with our Managed Isolation and Quarantine iwi partners from Tamaki Makaurau, Waikato, Te Arawa, Te Whanganui a Tara and Te Waipounamu (all the regions we have facilities operating in).
- The hui wānanga will be held in Wellington on Tuesday 22 June 2021.
- We are working with your office to determine your availability to attend and address the wānanga.
- The kaupapa for the hui wānanga is to focus on the future of Managed Isolation and Quarantine in New Zealand, especially the issues and partnering opportunities that arise for Government and iwi.

4.3 Operational update

4.3.1 Capacity update

- From early March 2021 to present, over 80,000 returnees from over 180 countries have secured a voucher to return home during the period of March through to the end of October 2021.
- October rooms were made available in MIAS on 25 May 2021. Over 800 rooms have been booked from an initial tranche of 1,400 rooms.
- As at 9am 1 June 2021, there were over 1,800 rooms available for the period of June through to October 2021, spread across all months.
- The availability in June and July is now limited to a handful of days. The assumption is they are related to low demand days (limited flight options), so there could be a case for spreading that remaining availability into some of the unavailable dates.

4.3.2 Ombudsman update

- The response to the Ombudsman' provisional report for the Novotel Christchurch Airport facilities was submitted to the Ombudsman on 27 May 2021.
- We are preparing a response to the Ombudsman' provisional report for the SO Hotel.
- We have identified the following reoccurring themes in recent Ombudsman reports, which we are addressing:
 - The lack of internal complaints process at a MIF;
 - The rotational nature of the MIF manager role;
 - The privacy of returnees when outdoors;
 - The inadequacy of exercise areas;
 - The need for IPC refresher training for staff.
- These themes are being shared across the MIQ system so that insights from individual facilities can inform practices elsewhere. We would note that solutions may be constrained by facilities' environment, for example, the space available for exercise areas. Additionally, themes are being

addressed through the forward work programme, for example, we are working on an organisational response to the issue of rotation of MIF manager roles.

4.3.3 Auckland International Airport terminal upgrade

The upgrade for the International to Domestic (I2D) gate lounge for MIQ charter flights was completed as scheduled on 28 May 2021. The I2D Lounge was successfully trialled on 31 May 2021 by the NZ5 flight with 111 passengers transferred to Christchurch.

The new I2D liaison service was also successfully trialled on 31 May 2021. Three Menzies personnel escorted MIQ passengers through Zone B to the I2D gate providing wayfinding and information before their domestic transfer to Christchurch. Feedback was positive and the trial will continue.

The baggage reconciliation process to Auckland, Hamilton and Rotorua MIFs continues to function well. MIQ is currently assessing commercial proposals from Secureflight (incumbent) and Menzies to carry out this function in the long term.

4.3.4 Collection of MIQ fees – further information on invoicing system timeframes

In last week's weekly report, we advised you that the new invoice payment period of 30 days (down from 90 days) would come into effect from 1 September 2021. Responding to your feedback, we are looking to bring this date forward to 20 August 2021, and looking see what else can be done to achieve an earlier date ahead of this, however we will need to provide adequate notice to prospective returnees about how long they will have to pay their MIQ invoices. Additionally, we are seeking to ensure that we are well clear of the shift to the new invoicing platform and issuing of older invoices.

You have asked for further detail on the timeframe for the shift to the new invoicing platform. MBIE has been progressing work on a new invoicing system that will extract INZ data, semi-automate the process to determine fee liability and issue invoices. The transition from the old invoicing platform to the new FMIS invoicing solution was activated on 31 May 2021 which means that MBIE has resumed processing the backlog of invoices. We will keep you updated on the progress of this work via the weekly report and will provide more detailed information about the transition in an aide memoire. This will include the treatment for historical data (pre 25 March 2021). Any potential write offs resulting from this backlog of unissued invoices will be dealt with as part of the 2021 year end processes. These write offs, if any, will require approval from the Minister of Finance.

The Finance and Performance Team has worked out the first lot of MIQ debt that are older than 90 days past their due dates as at 30 April 2021 and are aiming to start referring them to debt collection by 4 June 2021. A total of 254 invoices (worth \$812,000) are due to be sent to debt collection. These invoices are currently undergoing final checks to ensure that the debt is completely accurate and that the returnees have not made any payments.

4.4 Schedule of Reviews

| Review | Date commenced | Expected completion date | Current status | Purpose |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Rapid Assessment | February 2021 | Complete | Preparing for proactive release - TBC | Commissioned by the MBIE Chief Executive to help identify practical recommendations for improvement opportunities across the MIQ system. |
| Grand Mercure Incident Review | April 2021 | Complete | Preparing for proactive release – currently scheduled for Thursday 3 Jun 2021 | A joint review after confirmation of a genomic link between returnees at the Grand Mercure Auckland MIF, which indicated in MIF transmission |
| Grand Millennium Incident Review | April 2021 | Complete | Preparing for proactive release – currently scheduled for Thursday 3 Jun 2021 | To review the circumstances surrounding two positive cases and determining what, if any, improvements can be made to the MIQ system to reduce the likelihood of cases occurring in MIQ workers in the future. |
| MIQ First Security Incident Review | April 2021 | Complete | Preparing for proactive release – currently scheduled for Thursday 3 Jun 2021 | To review the circumstances and actions leading up to the incident and assess the adequacy of First Security's internal processes to ensure that their workers at |

| Review | Date commenced | Expected completion date | Current status | Purpose |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | MIQFs completed their periodic testing regime for COVID-19. |
| Sudden Death Critical Incident Review | January 2021 | June 2021 | In progress | To identify any lessons learnt from the response to the death of a guest in a MIF and determine if any changes should be put in place. |
| Financial Management Review | May 2021 | June 2021 | In progress | Identify opportunities for improvement in process and procedures for supplier invoicing, review of financial reporting that is currently in place, review of financial delegations framework. |
| MIQ Staff Unwell - Health Checks (control hotspot) | May 2021 | June 2021 | In progress | The purpose of this review is to determine the degree of implementation of published risk, assurance and quality controls and treatments; the capability and effectiveness of the system in ensuring continual application, review and improvement of these controls and treatments for potential improvement of the wider MIQ system integrating continuous improvement and risk-based thinking through evidence-based assurance |
| MIQ PCBU Health and Safety Obligations Review | April 2021 | July 2021 | In progress | This review is to identify MBIE's responsibilities as a lead PCBU and assess how well these responsibilities are fulfilled to support other PCBUs meet their health and safety obligations. |
| Fees and Waiver Review | Scheduled to start June 2021 | August 2021 | Planning | TBC |
| MIQ Exemptions Review | Scheduled to start June 2021 | August 2021 | Planning | To assess consistency, transparency and fairness of the exemptions from managed isolation process for people entering New Zealand. |
| Onsite Ventilation Assessments | February 2021 | <p>Testing: May 2021</p> <p>Programme of work: August 2021</p> | <p>Grand Mercure ventilation maintenance work will be complete in mid-June 2021.</p> <p>Grand Millennium The MIF completed ventilation maintenance work and retesting that confirmed what further work is required. These findings have been presented in the ventilation maintenance/ remediation proposal with an estimated completion of mid-June 2021.</p> <p>28 of 31 sites have provided full or provisional onsite test results to MBIE.</p> <p>The Ventilation group (VWG) have reviewed the reports for 24 sites and meetings have been held with 20 MIFs to seek remediation proposals. Some facilities have already commenced maintenance work to address initial findings with detailed remediation proposals received for seven sites.</p> | A comprehensive understanding of MIQF ventilation systems, remediation work completed (if required) to optimise the performance of the systems and additional operational practices implemented to complement the ventilation system operations. |
| Information Management Assurance Review | Scheduled to start July 2021 | September 2021 | Planning | The purpose of the review is to analyse the current information management practices within MIQ. |
| Audit NZ Annual Review: Revenue management - focus on MIQ | TBC - Not sure on start date but will coincide with the annual review audit. | 30 September 2021 | Planning | The audit of MBIE's 2020/21 Annual report by Audit NZ will also cover MIQ. As a new function and revenue stream for the 2020/21 financial year we would expect it to be an area of audit focus. |

| Review | Date commenced | Expected completion date | Current status | Purpose |
|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| MIQ Rapid Assessment (Phase 2) | Scheduled to start August 2021 | October 2021 | Planning | This will be a follow-up review following the MIQ Rapid Assessment which was completed earlier this year. |
| Rapid review of Border Worker Testing (BEB led) | April 2021 | Two-part review. Part one (focused on MIQ) due to be presented to BEB in June. Part two (focused on wider border) still TBC when it will be completed | In progress | To assess the arrangements in place to support compliance with the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020. |
| Regular ongoing reviews | | | | |
| MoH Infection Prevention Control Audits of MIQ facilities | July 2020 | - | Ongoing | The Ministry of Health conducts regular audits into infection prevention and control (IPC) at the managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) facilities around New Zealand. MIQ facilities are an important part of our border measures to keep COVID-19 out of the community. It's critical to the health of the country that MIQ facilities are well-maintained and any infection brought in by people entering New Zealand cannot spread into the community. |
| Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) Systems Assurance Framework | March 2021 | - | Ongoing | DPMC are working on a COVID-19 systems assurance framework that will give visibility of the end-to-end COVID-19 response system. |
| Ombudsman OPCAT Reviews | February 2021 | - | Provisional reports received | Aotearoa New Zealand has international human rights obligations under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). The purpose is to monitor and carry out such inspections of managed isolation and quarantine facilities to ensure that people are being treated humanely and their human rights are being respected and protected. |

4.5 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 2 June 2021

| Group | Date of Arrival | Allocation Approved | Final number of rooms allocated | Comments |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Refugees – Cohort 3 | 24 – 28 May 2021 | 76 | 76 | 28 family groups |
| Olympic athletes | 6 May – 1 Jul 2021 | 157 | 44 | Returnees from Tokyo Olympic qualifying events. Various return dates. 157 allocated, only 62 used. This is due to some obtaining vouchers through MIAS, events being cancelled and athletes choosing not to travel. |
| NZDF Operation WHIO | 4 Jun 2021 | 45 | 45 | |
| RSE | TBC – 4 July 2021 – Mar 2022 | 150 rolling entry per 16 days | TBC | Total number of workers will depend on agreed start and end dates, noting a reduction in numbers during Oct 2021 due to high demand for group allocations. These RSE arrivals will be accommodated in Hamilton for duration of the arrivals. Industry have indicated that the start date may be 4 July 2021, but this is still to be confirmed. |
| Rugby | 18 June 2021 | 47 | 35 | Fijian rugby team arriving from multiple locations, will go into Christchurch. Approval for off-site training is underway. Issues have arisen for the Fiji-based players due to inability to secure flights |
| Cricket – Black Caps | 18 Jun 2021 | 11 | 11 | Returning cricketers, no special training requirements. |
| | 26 Jun 2021 | 22 | 22 | |
| International | 2 Jun 2021 | 100 | 4 | |

| Group | Date of Arrival | Allocation Approved | Final number of rooms allocated | Comments |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Students | 9 Jun 2021 | 100 | 11 | Arriving on commercial flights. MoE have noted that they experienced difficulty in filling up the flights in early June. Significant underutilisation of allocation space. MIQ notified on 24 May 2021 and rooms have been released, but due to close date, there may be rooms wasted. |
| | 16 Jun 2021 | 100 | TBC | |
| | 23 Jun 2021 | 100 | TBC | |
| Construction Accord | Jun 2021 | 60 | 0 | Have confirmed that they will not use the June 2021 allocation. |
| | Jul 2021 | 60 | TBC | |
| | Aug 2021 | 60 | TBC | |
| | Sep 2021 | 60 | TBC | |
| Winter Games | 19 Jul 2021 | 30 | TBC | |
| Antarctic USAP | 16 Jul 2021 | 34 | TBC | Entering on charter flights direct into Christchurch. |
| | 19 Jul 2021 | 170 | TBC | |
| Netball | 19 Jul 2021 | 30 | TBC | English Roses, planning will begin 1 Jun 2021. This will be the first sports team under the new full cost recovery model. |
| Returning Olympic Athletes (3 cohorts) | 2 Aug 2021 | ~200 | TBC | Athletes, staff and media returning from the Olympics on three charter flights. Planning for managing these large returns in Christchurch is underway |
| | 8 Aug 2021 | ~200 | TBC | |
| | 10 Aug 2021 | ~200 | TBC | |
| Paralympic athletes | Sep 2021 | 100 | TBC | Athletes and management returning from the Paralympics in Tokyo Returning as multiple smaller groups, MIQ secured via MIAS. Planning to support their arrivals is underway. |

RSE

The issues with RSE arrivals continue and are still to be resolved. The three key issues are:

- Work to contract with industry to cover the additional MIQ costs has stalled** as industry will not provide a single counterparty (or reasonable alternative) for the Crown Services Agreement. A letter was sent to Ministers Faafoi and O'Connor outlining industries concerned. MIQ have drafted a response reiterating our position and rationale. Our inability to progress with contracting should not hinder operational planning from an MIQ perspective, however, we will be limited in our ability to recover additional costs until the contract has been signed. If a resolution cannot be met soon, this will become more of a risk as costs will start to be incurred.
- The first date of arrival has not been confirmed** in writing by industry. Industry have, however, indicated an intention to arrive on 4 July 2021. This is already a delay to the first entry date stipulated by industry of 21 June 2021. It is still uncertain as to whether they will be able to meet the INZ processing deadlines required for arrivals to actually enter on that date. MIQ have requested written confirmation that industry will make this date as wider MIQ planning can be impacted if dates continue to shift. There is a risk that rooms currently reserved in Hamilton for RSE will be wasted if dates shift continuously and cannot be filled with other returnees. We will also have limited ability to recover the costs of those wasted rooms.
- Industry continue to progress planning outside of the operational planning set by MIQ**, which will push us past safe operating limits. In particular, they are scheduling in flights outside of the prescribed window set by MIQ without consultation with MIQ. It is important that this window is maintained to ensure arrival times into the MIF are at a time that ensures the welfare of staff within the MIFs. MIQ will continue to work with industry where necessary to support any conversations with Auckland in regard to meeting that arrival window.

We are now seeing issues arise at a regional level because of the above. Uncertainty in timing means that we cannot confirm workforce plans and MIFs are raising concerns about the financial and staffing impact that this uncertainty has on them. MIQ national planning also cannot look at how to maximise capacity in Hamilton at this stage to mitigate some of these risks as there is no start date confirmed to work around.

MIQ has prepared a response to the industry letter about fees and contracting that reinforces our position. Once guidance has come from Ministers, we can send it on. MIQ is also preparing a comprehensive information pack for industry that provides detailed information about how MIQ operates and why.

Russians mariners

The number of the group of mariners scheduled to enter MIQ on 3 June 2021 have reduced from 26 to 23. This is due to one returning a positive COVID-19 pre-departure test and two not having the correct visas to board. The group are scheduled to go into the Holiday Inn in Auckland. Arrangements are in place for onsite translators to be at the MIF at the cost of the fishing companies. The translator has been fully vaccinated. An agreement letter has also been finalised with the fishing company to ensure any additional costs can be recovered if new situations arise.

Fijian rugby team

Players from the Fijian rugby team are due to enter MIQ on 18 June 2021. Players are coming from the UK, France and Fiji. Those in Europe will congregate in Singapore and get a direct flight to Christchurch from there.

For Fijian based players New Zealand Rugby (NZR) is looking at a flight option out of Fiji, but this flight arrives on 19 June 2021, one day after their approved arrival date. While there is capacity in Christchurch, this will have an impact on their training exemption as the conditions of their entry have changed and they will be on different timetables to the Europe-based players who are still arriving on 18 June 2021. For sports teams that want to train, they are required to enter as a single unit or to arrive within a small window on the same day.

MIQ is working with NZR to work through their issues and provide support where necessary. However, with 2 weeks left before arrival, this is putting pressure on planning and there may be limited options available to them.

4.6 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 1 June 2021

| Date | Activity | Lead Agency | Comms Material | Ministerial Involvement Y/N |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 3 June 2021 | Reports on Grand Millennium and Grand Mercure issues | MIQ/MoH | Proactive communications and engagement | N |
| Jun 2021 | Onsite survey of all MIF ventilation followed by remediation work | MIQ | Reactive information | N |
| 5 June 2021 | Deadline for full vaccination for MIQ workers | MIQ | Proactive communications | TBC |
| 6 June 2021 | NZ Herald interview with Brig Bliss TBC | MIQ | Proactive communications | N |
| Early-June 2021 | Rapid Assessment of MIQ | MIQ | Proactive PR | N |
| 17 June 2021 | Thanks from Iso' exhibition - Rotorua Lakes Council Galleria | Accor / MIQ / Rotorua Lakes Council | Proactive communications | N |
| 23 June 2021 | Estimates | MoH/MBIE/MIQ | Preparatory communications | Y |
| mid-June 2021 | Saliva testing of frontline border workers starts in Christchurch | MIQ/MOH | Reactive information | N |

4.7 Fees

4.7.1 Invoicing

- The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to 30 May 2021. These relate to people who arrived in managed isolation up to 16 May 2021, noting that invoices are issued after the two-week stay.
- Not all of those identified as 'potentially liable' will receive an invoice.

- The 'Invoices to be confirmed' column includes temporary visa holders and others who require further contact to confirm their liability. It also includes people who are in contact with us about waivers. These people will not be invoiced until their enquiry or application has been resolved.
- Invoices are due 90 days from the date on the invoice and are sent 'per room'.

| | People potentially liable for charges | Rooms potentially needing invoice | Waivers approved | Invoices to be confirmed | Invoices sent | Paid # | Paid (\$NZD) | Unpaid 0 – 90 days | Overdue | Overdue 90+ days | Overdue 180+ days |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Groups | 3,058 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 35 | \$13,756,659 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maritime | 1,500 | 314 | 0 | 0 | 314 | 184 | \$798,005 | 108 | 22 | 6 | 0 |
| Aircrew | 2,482 | 204 | 0 | 0 | 204 | 102 | \$706,516 | 83 | 19 | 4 | 0 |
| All other arrivals | 39,299 | 29,738 | 4,062 | 11,781 | 13,653 | 7,404 | \$26,836,847 | 4,711 | 1,780 | 605 | 32 |
| Total | 46,339 | 30,291 | 4,062 | 11,781 | 14,206 | 7,725 | \$42,098,027 | 4,902 | 1,821 | 615 | 32 |

Note: The '90+ days Overdue' and '180+ days Overdue' columns represent the number of invoices from the 'Overdue' column that have been outstanding for 90+ days or 180+ days since they have become overdue, meaning invoices in these columns are issued between 181-270 days and 271+ days previously.



4.7.2 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 Aug 2020 and 30 May 2021.

| | Waiver applications received | In progress | Total completed | Total financial hardship applications | Total special circumstances applications | Approved waiver applications | | Declined waiver applications | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | | | Financial Hardship | Special Circumstances | Financial Hardship | Special Circumstances |
| Total | 6,892 | 1,089 | 5,803 | 739 | 5,064 | 83 | 4,377 | 656 | 687 |

4.8 Emergency Allocation Applications

- 3,245 applications have been processed since 30 Oct 2020.
- 26 applications were received in the week ending 30 May 2021 and 7 applications were processed.
- From the applications processed in the week ending 30 May 2021, 86% of the applications were approved.

| Emergency Allocation Applications | Weekly Totals 24 May 2021 to 30 May 2021 | Year to Date Totals 30 Oct 2020 to 30 May 2021 |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Approved | 6 | 1,804 |
| Declined | 1 | 1,441 |
| Applications processed* | 7 | 3,245 |

*This number does not reflect applications declined at triage stage, rather incomplete applications, or applications not submitted within 14 days of intended departure.

Note: Data integration started on 28 Apr 2021 to import and capture manual applications processed between 04 Dec 2020 and 20 Dec 2020. We have imported 163 out of 216 applications.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Total Rooms Approved | 6 |
| Rooms Allocated in MIAS | 6 |
| Cancelled by the applicant | 0 |
| Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process | 0 |

4.9 Resolutions Update

- Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 25 May to 31 May 2021 is as follows:

| Week 25 May 2021 – 31 May 2021 | Received | Active Cases | Resolved |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Complaints | 56 | 26 | 62 |
| Improvements | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Compliments | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Queries | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Ombudsman | 7 | 25 | 1 |
| Parliamentary/OIA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 69 | 53 | 67 |

- Average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 103. For the last 4 weeks the average is 66 per week.
- This week we have received 69 new cases and have resolved 67 cases.
- Of these complaints, around two thirds were about facilities and/or fees and charges. Complaints about MIAS/vouchers remained steady from last week with a slight decrease from 23% to 21%. Complaints about exemptions and emergency allocations remained low at 4% and 7% respectively.

5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade



5.1 COVID-19 Vaccine Donation through COVAX Facility

New Zealand has finalised legal agreements with COVAX for the donation of 1.66 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, earmarked to the Pacific region. COVAX will announce the allocation of the first 211,000 doses in a media release on Tuesday 1 June and a New Zealand media statement is also planned.

Vaccine delivery starts this week to Timor Leste and Tuvalu, with other deliveries expected in June. The doses will be distributed to Papua New Guinea (146,400), Timor Leste (24,000), Tonga (4,800), Tuvalu (4,800) and Fiji (2,400).

Officials continue to explore other donation opportunities with the COVAX Facility and are currently seeking legal advice on a template Tripartite Dose Sharing Agreement that could be used to share doses from our bilateral Advance Purchase Agreement with AstraZeneca.

Proactively Released

6. Border Executive Board Report



6.1 Key Issues Being Considered by the Board

6.1.1 Border Workforce

- Border employers are following up with the few staff who come under the Vaccinations Order and who have not yet had their second COVID-19 vaccination. These workers have until the close of 4 June 2021 to receive their second dose or they will not be treated as vaccinated.
- Work is underway to coordinate activities that will support PCBUs to ensure that when the Vaccinations Amendment Order comes into effect, workers covered by the Order will be fully immunised within the required time. This includes communications, engagement with unions, support for those who are unable or unwilling to be vaccinated and need to be redeployed, and reporting.

6.1.2 Travel Health Pass

- Officials working on the Travel Health Pass Work Programme continue to develop advice for Ministers on what would be required to stand up a travel health pass and what options the Government could undertake.

6.1.3 Digital Border

- At its meeting on 27 May, the Board considered the 'digital border' work stream. This is part of the Board's systems improvement work which will implement a border management approach that minimises risk to New Zealand, through reduced biosecurity, commodity, and passenger risk. It will also provide a seamless and efficient entry for no risk passengers and their luggage to ensure the right focus on non-compliance and potential risk.
- A work stream programme brief was approved by the Board.

7. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



7.1 Pre-Departure Testing

- For the period 24 May 2021 to 30 May 2021, no infringements or warnings were issued.

Passengers

| | Date | 24 May | 25 May | 26 May | 27 May | 28 May | 29 May | 30 May | Week Total | % |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|-------|
| | Total Passengers | 3479 | 2822 | 2051 | 2601 | 2875 | 2529 | 2296 | 18653 | |
| | Passengers subject to PDT | 305 | 266 | 182 | 223 | 214 | 280 | 99 | 1569 | 8.4% |
| Primary Actions (Passport Control) | Test Certificate Verified | 292 | 252 | 173 | 215 | 202 | 271 | 93 | 1498 | 95.5% |
| | Exemption Verified | 13 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 47 | 3.0% |
| | Referred to Secondary Area | 0 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 24 | 1.5% |
| Secondary Area Actions | Compliant | 0 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 24 | 100% |
| | Warned | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Infringement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Prosecution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Crew

| | Date | 24 May | 25 May | 26 May | 27 May | 28 May | 29 May | 30 May | Week Total | % |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|------|
| | Crew subject to PDT | 58 | 87 | 67 | 40 | 58 | 55 | 8 | 373 | |
| Primary Actions (Passport Control) | Test Certificate Verified | 58 | 87 | 67 | 40 | 58 | 55 | 8 | 373 | 100% |
| | Exemption Verified | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Referred to Secondary Area | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Secondary Area Actions | Compliant | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Warned | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Infringement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Prosecution | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

8. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

COVID-19 Chief
Executives Board

8.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board meeting scheduled for 8 June has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 June, after which we will provide you with an update on the outcome of the meeting.

9. COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group

Continuous Review,
Improvement and
Advice Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Group met on Thursday 18 May to discuss fact checking feedback received from the Ministry of Health, Te Kawa Mataaho – Public Service Commission and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The feedback was on the Group's draft report which is their review of the Auckland February 2021 outbreak. The report has been updated and the final report, along with a cover letter from the Group Chair Sir Brian Roche, will be sent to you this week.

A fortnightly cadence of meetings and updates to you as a reporting mechanism has been confirmed. Tania Ott, Deputy Commissioner – COVID-19 Response and Recovery, will be invited to the beginning of each fortnightly meeting.

10. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Strategic COVID-19
Public
Health Advisory Group

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 public health advisory group meet on Wednesday 2 June 2021. Rodney Jones of Wigram Capital Advisors presented to the group on the latest surveillance modelling to predict length of outbreaks and potential resurgence flares. These models are being used overseas and could help inform the response in terms of alert levels required to slow resurgence.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9 June 2021.

11. Business Leaders Forum

Business Leaders Forum

11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum is considering actions that they could take to support the vaccine programme. The next meeting will take place this month, date to be confirmed.

12. Government Modelling Group

Government Modelling
Group

12.1 Items to Note/Updates

Professor Shaun Hendy briefed Ministers on the initial results from TPM vaccination modelling on Tuesday 1 June.

The COVID-19 Modelling Steering Group is working with Shaun Hendy, and other Te Pūnaha Matatini (TPM) researchers, on modelling which explores COVID-19 dynamics across different vaccination coverage states for the New Zealand population. Interpretation of the results has been discussed with the researchers, and officials have separately been considering policy implications.

13. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

s9(2)(f)(iv)

14. Official Information Act Requests

14.1 Ministry of Health

| Date due | Requestor | OIA Request | Status |
|------------|--------------|---|----------------------|
| 12 May 21 | Chris Bishop | The full Ministry of Health paper dated 26 January 2021 referred to in the House; and any covering report or aides-mémoire from the Ministry relating to it; The "several updated delivery schedules from Pfizer" referred to in the House "the model" the government operates to which was referred to in the House. | In progress |
| 9 June 21 | Chris Bishop | Information relating to the "very high risk" category of overseas countries. | At Minister's office |
| 9 June 21 | s9(2)(a) | Information relating to the "very high risk" category of overseas countries. | In progress |
| 10 June 21 | Chris Bishop | Advice on maximizing the uptake of the BWTR on 26 February 2021. | In progress |
| 16 June 21 | Chris Bishop | The full Review of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020 received on 17 February 2021, as well as the review referred to from March and the advice that relates. | In progress |
| 18 June 21 | s9(2)(a) | List of, and information about, papers about proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and dates of oral briefings on the subject, from 1 November 2020. | In progress |

14.2 Managed Isolation and Quarantine

Note: Any OIA highlighted in **bold** is a new addition from the previous report.

| Date due | Requestor | Media/Opposition | OIA Request | Status |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 Sep 20 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | All docs etc. for MIQ charges policy incl. for treaty obligations & BORA. | Overdue |
| 14 Dec 20 | s9(2)(a) | MediaWorks | Correspondence with INZ re applications by athlete/sporting organisations. | Under review |
| 23 Dec 20 | s9(2)(a) | Stuff | Complaints lodged by residents of managed isolation facilities. | Under review |
| 18 Mar 21 | s9(2)(a) | NZ Herald | Subsequent advice from meetings with iwi about MIQ facilities. | Decision on request sent |
| 29 Mar 21 | s9(2)(a) | Newshub | Complaints at MIQ - Workers who has been dismissed and reasons at MIQ. | Under review |
| 20 Apr 21 | s9(2)(a) | Stuff | What advice was given/research conducted regards alternative MIQ options. | Minister's office |
| 22 Apr 21 | s9(2)(a) | Stuff | All 2020 correspondence with SeaLord, Independent fisheries & Maruha Nichiro. | Minister's office |
| 30 Apr 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Risk management programme for each and every premises used for MIQ. | Under review |
| 30 Apr 21 | s9(2)(a) | RNZ | All docs re COVID contact tracing card trial at Bay Plaza in Welly 7/12/20. | Decision on request sent |
| 4 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | Newshub | Corr. and query regarding COVID card trial in MIQ cost. | Decision on request sent |
| 7 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | RNZ | Info RE establishing purpose-built quarantine facility in New Zealand. | Minister's office |
| 11 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Identity of certain NZDF staff at an MIQ facility. | Under review |
| 17 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | NZ Herald | Advice to Minister's on current testing rates and addressing challenges. | Under review |
| 21 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Expansions of MIQ facilities for reports to officials, Ministers & studies. | Minister's office |
| 24 May 21 | s9(2) | Not applicable | Records for security purposes. | Under review |
| 24 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Information around Oriental Bay Plaza Wellington requesting no MIQ signs. | Gathering information |
| 25 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Details around any security breaches at MIQ facility on Oriental Parade. | Gathering information |
| 27 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | NZ Herald | Request for paper on assessment of proposals for sport MIQ. | Under review |
| 1 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Stuff | Info relating to Christchurch Regional Isolation and Quarantine centre. | Minister's office |
| 2 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Newshub | RE correspondence regarding building of purpose built MIQ facilities, including non-hotels. | Minister's office |
| 3 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Correspondence regarding connections between MBIE (MIQ) & Stamford hotel group. | Drafting |
| 3 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | RNZ | RE statistics on how many security guards work at MIQ fac. & costs. | Under review |
| 4 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Directive from the Minister authorising cancellation of MIQ vouchers. | Under review |
| 4 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Outstanding MIQ fees. | Approved |
| 4 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Records about gas meter reading company Arthur D Riley reading meter at MIQ. | Gathering information |
| 4 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | RNZ | Correspondence relating to increase in MIQ fees & data on MIQ fees to date. | Minister's office |
| 8 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Newshub | Unaccompanied minors in managed isolation facilities. | Under review |
| 8 Jun 21 | Lobby New Zealand | Not applicable | Information on statement that 90% of MIQ staff had their COVID vaccination. | Minister's office |
| 8 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | NZ Herald | All correspondence relating to DOIA 2021-1194. | Under review |

| Date due | Requestor | Media/Opposition | OIA Request | Status |
|-----------|--------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 11 Jun 21 | Chris Bishop | Opposition | Papers produced for MBIE workshop held on 20/01/21 with MoH/Private Sector. | Drafting |
| 11 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | RNZ | How many frontline workers employment terminated due to no vaccine? | Approved |
| 11 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Newshub | All comms between MBIE and Pullman hotel management Jan 2021-Mar 2021. | Under review |
| 14 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | TVNZ | Breakdown of declined emergency MIQ spots. | Under review |
| 14 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Comms etc re Release request of MIQ facilities proposal. | Gathering information |
| 16 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | NZ Herald | Release of document re; Assessment of Proposals for a sport MIQ Facility. | Gathering information |
| 16 Jun 21 | s9(2) | Not applicable | Private Security Providers - breakdown of citizens and non-citizens. | Gathering information |
| 17 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | NZ Herald | MIQ rooms which housed people deported from Australia to NZ since MIQ began. | Under review |
| 21 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | RNZ | Details on MIQ breaches from 14th of June 20 until the 21st of April 21. | Drafting |
| 21 Jun 21 | Chris Bishop | Opposition | Surveys done by facilities and DHBs of people who stayed at MIQ. | Minister's office |
| 23 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | No. of people in quarantine being involuntarily detained by DHBs. | Scoping |
| 24 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Percentage of bus drivers operating for MIQ. | Scoping |
| 25 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Newshub / Discovery NZ | Queries on SIM cards in MIQ. | Scoping |
| 29 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | RE copy of offtime maritime workers briefing paper. | Scoping |
| 9 Jul 21 | s9(2)(a) | Not applicable | Explanation on MIQ fees waiver. | Approved |

14.3 COVID-19 Group

| Date due | Requestor | OIA Request | Status |
|------------|-------------|--|----------|
| 29 May 20 | s9(2) | All documentation pertaining to the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts that your organization has been involved in 2020. | Drafting |
| 26 May 21 | s9(2) | Emails, reports or briefing documents which relate to posts on the Unite Against COVID-19 Facebook page concerning Case I, Case J and Case L. | QA |
| 4 May 21 | s9(2)(a) | Information relating to the definition and usage of the term 'priorities' in government and questions regarding its specific usage. | Drafting |
| 24 June 21 | s9(2) | Copy of paper taken to cabinet on 29 March 2021: 'Funding for the COVID-19 Post-Pandemic Public Health Advisory Group' received on 9 April 2021.' | Scoping |
| 25 June 21 | s9(2) | Request for marketing material planned for use in the Covid-19 Group 4 rollout. | Scoping |
| 23 June 21 | s9(2)(a) | All advice, communications, materials, cabinet papers and other relevant official information produced between 1 February 2020 and 31 January 2021 relating to the domestic human rights law implications of limiting and/or prohibiting return by New Zealand citizens and permanent residents abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic, both generally and on a case-by-case basis. | Scoping |
| 8 June 21 | New Zealand | Advice given to Cabinet by any Ministry and/or public officials on the legitimacy of putting a temporary and/or permanent ban of New Zealand citizens and permanent residents from entering New Zealand from overseas, including from other Nations in the Realms of New Zealand, based on the grounds of Covid-19. | Scoping |
| 8 June 21 | s9(2) | All information pertaining to advice received and decision making regarding the recent decision to temporarily suspend incoming arrivals to NZ who have been in India in the last 14 days. | Scoping |
| 9 June 21 | s9(2) | When will the borders will be re-opened? Date or an approximate year? | QA |
| 9 June 21 | Bishop | Information regarding decisions to restrict entry to New Zealand for people from Very High-Risk Countries. | Scoping |
| 15 June 21 | s9(2) | For the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group meeting minutes, advice provided to the Minister for the Covid-19 Response. | Scoping |

| Date due | Requestor | OIA Request | Status |
|------------|--------------|---|---------|
| 17 June 21 | s9(2) | All briefings and reports that have been sent to Minister Hipkins or his office from the Independent Advisory Groups, including for the period March 15 until May 19, 2021. | Scoping |
| 21 June 21 | s9(| Amount spent on advertising to provide any type of information associated with Covid19 from January 2020 to current date. | QA |
| 25 June 21 | s9(| Copies of all advice provided to the Minister for the COVID-19 Response. | Scoping |

14.4 Border Executive Board

Note: Any OIA highlighted in **bold** is a new addition from the previous report.

| Date due | Requestor | OIA Request | Status |
|-----------|-----------------|--|---------|
| 24 Jun 21 | s9(2)(a) | A copy of the Border Sector Strategy and the BEB work programme. Copies of the minutes of all BEB meetings and copies of all BEB reports submitted to the COVID-19 Response Minister | Scoping |

Proactively Released