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**BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD**



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



# COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

1 July 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

## Border

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Border measures	BEB			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The complexity and frequent adjustment of border measures is challenging and increases the risk that someone will 'slip through'. The indicator will likely remain amber until the border is operating in a steady state and the reopening border measures are in place and embedded. Current adaptations include QFT pauses, changes to PDT requirements (eg from Australia), mitigations for travellers from very high-risk countries and a suite of exceptions and exemptions.</li> </ul>
	MoH			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work continues on preparing for the roll out of saliva testing to border workers. Saliva testing will complement the existing tests (nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal anterior nares swab), to provide the assurances we need at the border while reducing the level of discomfort among frontline staff.</li> <li>The Ministry of Health is working with border workers in Canterbury to run a prototype for saliva testing. This will involve private and public sector person conducting business or undertaking, (PCBUs), who want to participate in the prototype, to ensure any issues are resolved before a phased roll out to a wider group of border workers across New Zealand.</li> </ul>
	MoH			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 27 April 2021, the Border Worker Testing Register (BWTR) became mandatory for all border facing PCBUs.</li> <li>The BWTR is a vital tool used by the Ministry of Health to ensure PCBUs are correctly applying the vaccine and required testing orders for all frontline and border workers to be regularly tested and vaccinated.</li> <li>As at 30 June 2021, there were 232 PCBUs covering 12,909 active workers in the BWTR.</li> <li>This is an increase of 158% per cent since the announcement to make use of the BWTR mandatory.</li> <li>Of those border workers currently active in the BWTR on 30 June:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83 per cent have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.</li> <li>2 per cent have had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.</li> <li>The remaining 15 per cent represent workers in the BWTR that have not been vaccinated yet or have not been matched to their vaccination record due to the absence of NHI-matching in the CIR.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	MBIE			<p>Staff testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance reporting is at 97% for staff who worked in the week of 21 to 27 June 2021 when adjusted for the Hamilton issue.</li> <li>Compliance figures continue to be impacted by the cyber-attack on Waikato DHB (affecting compliance results for the three Hamilton MIQ facilities). Compliance reporting for Hamilton facilities is down to an average of 25% (previously around 90%). MoH have advised in their Dashboard report that they are working on a plan on when and how the lab data from Waikato DHB will come through into BWTR.</li> <li>For saliva testing, MoH are leading a phased roll out, starting with a prototype to workers on a seven day cycle in Canterbury with an estimated start date of early July 2021.</li> <li>A full implementation will commence once we fully understand and can mitigate impacts to our service to ensure we do not compromise the existing testing that is being undertaken.</li> </ul> <p>Vaccinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccination follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR identified three instances in the last week of unvaccinated people going on site (two were workers and a third was a family member of a worker). More info is included in the weekly report.</li> <li>There were three exceptions granted last week, on 22, 24 and 25 June 2021 (one at Distinction Hamilton and two at the Bay Plaza Wellington). The Hamilton worker was replacing a non-operational commercial oven. The two at the Bay Plaza were for carpet and kitchen cleaning work. The Bay Plaza had been due for de-designation as a MIF but due to the COVID-positive tourist in Wellington it was re-designated. This work was scheduled and is required for regular maintenance and at the time there were no returnees in the facility.</li> <li>MIQ-issued vaccination certificates continue to be issued periodically as vaccination status data is being updated.</li> <li>Where we identify issues with missing data (e.g. vaccine status) in a BWTR profile we are regularly in contact with MoH so that it can be fixed. Of the 78 workers with 'vaccine unknown' status last week, the majority have subsequently had their vaccine data pulled into BWTR. Thirteen have been raised with MoH as likely NHI discrepancy issues and one was a paramedic exempt under the Order.</li> <li>This indicator will remain amber while work is underway to resolve the ransomware attack, learn from the saliva testing prototype and improve the limitations of BWTR information.</li> </ul>
	BEB			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed planning by the senior officials group (SOG) continues at pace towards an integrated implementation plan once the amended Vaccinations Order is confirmed and approved by Minister(s). An inter-agency coordination lead has been brought on to provide oversight across the multiple workstreams and agencies (12 workstreams across 11 agencies). Lessons identified from Tranche 1 of the mandatory vaccination work programme are being reviewed to capture into the Tranche 2 work. The indicator remains at amber due to the further detailed work required to understand implementation issues and risks.</li> </ul>

Two-way QFT with Australia	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s6(b)(i)</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 19 April 2021, QFT commenced for passengers between Australia and New Zealand.</li> <li>Commencing QFT carries a level of risk. Since commencement with Australia, pauses have occurred due to locally acquired cases in Australia.</li> <li>The status remains amber due to the current pause in QFT from Australia to New Zealand.</li> </ul>
	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel from all Australian states and territories has been paused. Travel from some states will resume from 11.59pm Sunday 4 July.</li> <li>Significant work has occurred to provide advice on, and to prepare for, the implementation of pre-departure testing for flights from Australia, including how layered assurance will be provided across the passenger journey.</li> <li>Advice has been prepared, and planning undertaken, for managed return flights.</li> <li>This is likely to move to green once pauses/suspensions become a routine process.</li> </ul>
Two-way QFT Niue	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 28 June you instructed officials to continue with preparations to commence two-way QFT with Niue. s6(a)</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agencies are progressing preparations for two-way travel with Niue. These discussions are being led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade with close support from the Ministry of Health.</li> <li>Lessons learned from QFT with Australia and the Cook Islands are being taken into account. s6(a)</li> </ul>
	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A briefing providing advice on the process and timeline for commencement of two-way quarantine-free travel between Niue and New Zealand was provided on 25 June 2021.</li> </ul>
Reopening new travel pathways - Pacific Islands	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s6(a)</li> </ul>
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Monday 28 June, Cabinet considered an oral item from the Minister of Immigration on quarantine-free entry into New Zealand of some travellers, including Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers, from COVID-free Pacific Islands. Cabinet directed officials to prepare further advice on one-way quarantine-free travel from Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu (in the first instance), outlining options for increasing flows of travellers and seeking agreement to commence discussions with Pacific countries. This paper is likely to be provided for Cabinet committee consideration in the week of 5 July.</li> </ul>
Country Risk Assessments	Exemptions			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update.</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 30 June, there are multiple outbreaks in Australia in differing stages of containment. These outbreaks are across five states; New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Three jurisdictions across Australia have reported no community cases: ACT, South Australia, and Tasmania.</li> </ul>

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**Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community**

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Transmission prevention	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 3 June, MBIE and the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) proactively released the recently conducted reviews of the Grand Millennium and Grand Mercure managed isolation facilities.</li> <li>Both facilities were reviewed following instances of in-facility transmission. In total, 11 recommendations were made across the two reviews, the majority of which are completed or underway.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p>Ventilation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ventilation Working Group (VWG) met twice last week as planned and have now completed the review of the last four onsite assessment reports. This concludes the VWG review of all of the sites.</li> <li>A further two meetings have been held with MIF's to share the results of the VWG reviewed onsite assessments bringing the total to 29 of 31 facilities (last week 27 of 31). The last two meetings are scheduled for Wednesday and Friday of this week.</li> <li>The total number of remediation proposals received to date remains at 12. A number of facilities have already commenced remediation work in advance of submitting their formal remediation proposal.</li> <li>Our independent HVAC engineer has reviewed and provided feedback on eight of the remediation proposals received to date.</li> <li>A further three plans, along with the HVAC engineer's feedback, were reviewed by MIQs Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group (VRAG) last week bringing the total reviewed, to date, to six. The VRAG will be scheduled to meet this week to review a further two remediation proposals.</li> <li>Status remains amber as we assess implications on the MIQ system of delivering the remedial programme. Next steps, leading to green, will be looking across the whole portfolio to schedule the remedial work whilst balancing room capacity.</li> </ul> <p>Reducing Transmission risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remediation work for the Grand Millennium Auckland was concluded last week. The facility was re-occupied on 29 June 2021.</li> <li>This indicator remains amber until we have assessed the implications on the MIQ system of delivering the remedial programme.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p>Renewing contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 31 facilities have agreed to pay the living wage.</li> <li>The Deputy Secretary of MIQ has agreed to extend the contract extended terms through to June 2022 to align with MIQ funding (previously April 2022).</li> <li>The extended terms and conditions have been agreed with 16 facilities with execution versions of the agreement being prepared and to be issued by 5 July 2021 (previously one facility).</li> <li>We have issued contract extension notices to the remaining hotels, extending them through until 31 October 2021, whilst we finalise the extended terms and conditions.</li> </ul> <p>Cohorting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cohorting has been implemented with facilities all transitioned (excluding special purpose facilities).</li> <li>The implementation continues to be monitored with a review to be completed next week.</li> <li>Analysis of the first two rounds of cohorting indicate that the impact is at the higher end of the initial predictions of 10-15% loss of utilisation. Work is underway to analyse this in more detail and advice will be provided to you in early July.</li> <li>This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotels; and until the cohorting review is complete.</li> </ul>
Post-managed isolation processes	MBIE	●	●	<p>Fees collection / debt recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new invoicing platform, in its initial four weeks of operation, has generated almost 5,500 invoices with a value of almost \$22m.</li> <li>These invoices are for the period 25 March 2021 through to end of May 2021. A new update will be released this week which reflects the change to duration of stay requirement to 180 days and critical health workers. This will enable invoices for June to be processed.</li> <li>This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices. The majority of June invoices will be invoiced in July and we expect to be up to date for invoices post 25 March by the end of July (excluding some exceptions and aircrew).</li> <li>We are continuing to work on identifying returnees prior to 25 March 2021 that are yet to be invoiced, and devising recommended options to address this backlog.</li> </ul>

**Community Protection**

	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Case investigation, surveillance and testing	MoH	●	●	<p>Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the advent of winter and more people likely to present with respiratory complaints and other COVID-like symptoms, the Ministry of Health is working with DHBs to reinforce the need for the public to get tested if symptomatic. The Ministry will also be promoting this message across its communication platforms and will work with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).</li> <li>Regular wastewater testing has commenced in the Queenstown area. This is now part of the regular wastewater testing programme which is already in place in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Rotorua and Hamilton. Wastewater testing in Wellington sites have returned 'not detected' results.</li> <li>An increase in testing numbers following notification of the active case in Wellington has been noticed. See below the total tests reported each day which shows the number of tests completed in the previous 24 hours. In brackets are the tests completed in Wellington laboratories.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 23 June - 5,929 (402)</li> <li>- 24 June - 6,999 (2,110)</li> <li>- 25 June - 10,749 (3,713)</li> <li>- 26 June - 8,593 (2,345)</li> <li>- 27 June - 6,120 (676)</li> <li>- 28 June - 3,527 (817)</li> <li>- 29 June - 7,240 (2,003)</li> <li>- 30 June - 10,097 (1,379)</li> <li>- 1 July - 7,775 (1,062)</li> <li>-</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Contact Tracing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 0800 1 July there are 2,652 contacts identified in relation to the Sydney case that travelled to Wellington on 18 June. In total, of the 2,652 contacts, 2,553 have returned a negative test result (96%), 7 results are not yet overdue, 64 results are overdue (down from 68 yesterday), 4 tests are pending, 16 are exempt from testing and 8 require no further action.</li> <li>The NITC have processes to follow for the tests that are overdue which includes making contact and working with contacts to secure a test.</li> </ul>
Public health	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Update.</li> </ul>

**Vaccination**

	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Implementation and operation	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continue to remain above our vaccination targets, with the most recent data showing that we are delivering at 108% against DHB plans up to 27 June 2021.</li> <li>Readiness assessments are currently being undertaken to ensure all DHBs are prepared for the scale-up to Group 4.</li> <li>Medsafe has given provisional approval for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for people aged 12 to 15 years. Cabinet will consider a 'decision to use.'</li> <li>DHBs are receiving weekly vial allocations and are expected to plan vaccinations to 100% of this allocation only, until vaccine supply officially increases during July.</li> <li>DHBs have now been onboarded onto the new CIR Ordering and Inventory module.</li> <li>The planning blueprint to enable vaccinations in Workplaces was launched on 25 June 2021. Eligible workplaces will be able to express an interest in the programme from 5 July.</li> </ul>

### Resurgence Planning and Response

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Resurgence planning including review of the response	MFAT			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update.</li> </ul>
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Response Plan Q3 has been released on 1 July 2021. Major updates include addition of Quarantine Free Travel.</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoH planning updates underway in alignment with DPMC with specific evaluation across all function areas inclusive of changes in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QFT outcomes/process/support/alignment.</li> <li>Vaccination rollout – potential impacts/opportunities.</li> <li>Alert level considerations.</li> <li>Identification and update of risks/issues/recommendations/lessons learned.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Readiness planning	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The paper commissioned on a system-wide appraisal of the NZ/Cook Islands QFT readiness is on track to be delivered to the Minister by 5 July. Domestic Readiness Pathway engagement remains ongoing, with keen engagement from Queenstown and agencies.</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Zealand and Cook Islands health officials have undertaken considerable work to maximise the Cook Islands’ health system preparedness for QFT, which commenced on 17 May. This has focused on public health capability, contact tracing, case management, and testing capacity.</li> <li>Readiness planning in regions is being supported by IMT, recently completed in Tauranga and Waikato, as part of an ongoing schedule of site visits to strengthen and support regional response capability.</li> </ul>
QFT response	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Zealand officials will hold technical talks with their Cook Islands counterparts focusing on planning for any managed return of travellers. A virtual scenario-testing workshop with the Cook Islands is also planned to be held following this. Timing is to be confirmed by CI: s6(a)</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine-free travel from New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia is paused until at least 11.59pm (NZT) Tuesday 6 July.</li> <li>Quarantine-free travel from Tasmania, ACT, Victoria and South Australia will resume from 11.59pm (NZT) on Sunday 4 July.</li> <li>Negative pre-departure tests will be required to enter New Zealand.</li> </ul>
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above.</li> </ul>

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## 2. COVID-19 Insights

### 2.1 Insights of Note

The Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group, have analysed the impact of the COVID-19 Delta variant, with a particular focus on insights from overseas related to transmissibility, severity, and vaccine efficacy against it, as well as the approaches that different countries are using to manage outbreaks. This is intended as a brief snapshot. Further information is available if required.

#### Context

The earliest documented samples of the Delta variant of COVID-19 (also known as the 'B.1.617.2' variant, or 'Indian' variant) were reported in October 2020 in India.<sup>1</sup> The World Health Organisation designated the variant a 'variant of interest' on 4 April 2021, and a 'variant of concern' on 11 May 2021.<sup>2</sup> The Delta variant has now been detected in 85 countries.<sup>3</sup> It is the main variant observed in the recent outbreaks in Melbourne, the Northern Territory, and Sydney,<sup>4</sup> as well as the recent case of an Australian traveller who tested positive after visiting Wellington.<sup>5</sup> It is also the dominant variant in the United Kingdom, while the WHO have commented that the Delta variant is becoming the dominant variant of the disease worldwide.<sup>6</sup>

#### Transmissibility

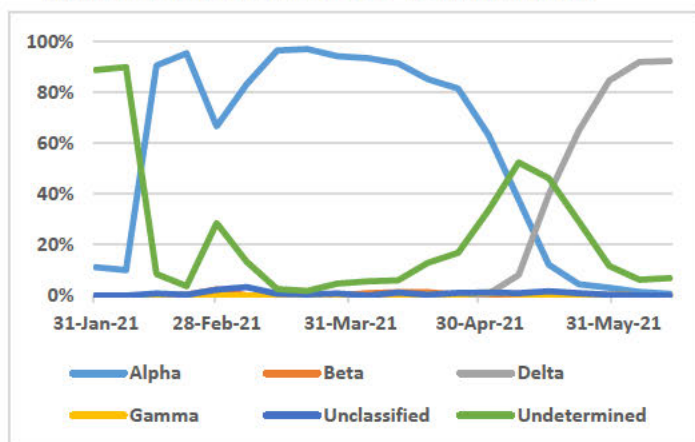
The Delta variant is thought to be twice as transmissible as the variants seen in New Zealand in late 2020, and between 40 – 60% more transmissible than the Alpha variant (also known as the B.1.1.7 variant or UK variant).<sup>7 8</sup> The evidence of increased transmissibility in the UK suggest that there is a potential that the Delta variant could generate larger clusters of cases than those observed in the 2020 outbreak in New Zealand.<sup>9</sup>

The fast spread of the Delta variant in the UK demonstrates the enhanced level of transmissibility of the variant compared to other COVID-19 variants. Recently, 92% of all the positive tests sampled in a week in the UK were the Delta variant, with the first identification of the variant in the UK through genetic sequencing occurring in the week of 8 March 2021.<sup>10 11</sup>

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 70% of new COVID-19 cases are projected to be caused by the Delta variant in the European Union /European Economic Area by early August, and 90% of new infections by the end of August.<sup>12</sup>

A recent study in the UK found that growth in the spread of the virus was being driven by younger people. It was noted that there was a five-fold increase in test-positivity rate amongst younger children (ages 5 – 12 years) and young adults (18 – 24 years) compared to those 65 year and over. It was suggested that the observed pattern may reflect increased social interactions between younger people and higher vaccine uptake amongst older people.<sup>13</sup>

Figure 1: Prevalence of Different COVID-19 Variants in the UK



## Severity

Although evidence is still limited, there are some suggestions of increased severity of the Delta variant compared to previous variants. Early symptoms may also differ in those infected with the Delta variant with the most common symptoms reportedly more similar to a bad cold or flu such as headache and runny nose. The most common symptoms of earlier variants of COVID-19 were fever, cough and loss of smell or taste.<sup>14 15</sup> Public Health Scotland analysis suggests that the risk of hospitalisation after contracting the Delta variant is double the risk after contracting the Alpha variant.<sup>16 17</sup> It was noted in the study that further analysis was needed to confirm the magnitude of the risk change.<sup>18</sup> Similarly, Public Health England analysis found a significantly higher risk of hospitalisation from the Delta variant.<sup>19</sup>

Despite the higher prevalence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 amongst younger people in the UK, it does not appear that the Delta variant causes significantly more serious disease in children than earlier variants.<sup>20</sup>

## Vaccine Effectiveness Against the Delta Variant

Public Health England data suggest that the Pfizer vaccine remains 88% effective against symptomatic disease when exposed to the Delta variant after two doses, whilst the AstraZeneca vaccine is approximately 60% effective against the Delta variant after two doses.<sup>21</sup> Effectiveness of a single dose of either vaccine was found to be approximately 33% against the Delta variant.<sup>22</sup>

Both the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca vaccines remain highly effective in preventing hospitalisations after contracting the Delta variant. One dose of the Pfizer vaccine is estimated to be 94% effective against hospitalisation and two doses is estimated to be 96% effective. One dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine is estimated to be 71% effective against hospitalisation and two doses is estimated to be 92% effective.<sup>23 24</sup>

## Government Responses to the Delta Variant

In response to the rise of the Delta variant, the UK has decided to delay the removal of COVID-19 social restrictions which had been scheduled for 21 June 2021, by one month to 19 July 2021. This delay will allow for a higher proportion of the population to be vaccinated before restrictions are removed.<sup>25</sup> The UK vaccination programme has also been stepped up with an acceleration in the delivery of the second dose.<sup>26</sup> The UK also increased efforts to prevent the importation of new variants by increasing border measures. Public Health England figures suggest that the Delta variant was introduced to the UK on at least 500 separate occasions. The UK placed India on the 'Red List' on April 23, meaning travellers would have mandatory hotel quarantine on entering the UK.<sup>27</sup>

In Australia, measures imposed as a result of outbreaks of the Delta variant include:

- 'Stay at home' orders for people living in the Greater Sydney Area until 9 July 2021 unless they have a reasonable excuse to leave home.
- Mandatory face masks on public transport and in all indoor settings for New South Wales and Victoria.<sup>28 29</sup>
- A recommendation that masks should be worn outdoors where social distancing of 1.5 metres is not possible in Victoria.<sup>30</sup>

Restrictions elsewhere prompted by the spread of the Delta variant include a nightly curfew and alcohol ban in South Africa; a halt on public transport in Bangladesh; a nationwide lockdown in



Malaysia; and further travel restrictions on passengers entering Germany, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Israel, where the population is amongst the most vaccinated in the world, reintroduced an indoor mask mandate which had been lifted two weeks earlier.<sup>31</sup>

Thank you to the following teams who contributed to this report: The Ministry of Health

## 2.2 Flight Arrivals and Departures

For the period of 19 April to 29 June (following the opening of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia) there were a total 217,152 arrivals into New Zealand, and 213,567 departures. There were 3,585 more arrivals into New Zealand over this period than departures. Total arrivals and departures are illustrated in figure 1 below with a breakdown of these arrivals and departures by port given in figure 2 (arrivals) and figure 3 (departures). As can be observed in the charts, there is a significant decline in arrivals after 26 June when Quarantine Free Travel from Australia was paused.

Figure 1: International Flight Arrivals and Departures – 19 April to 29 June

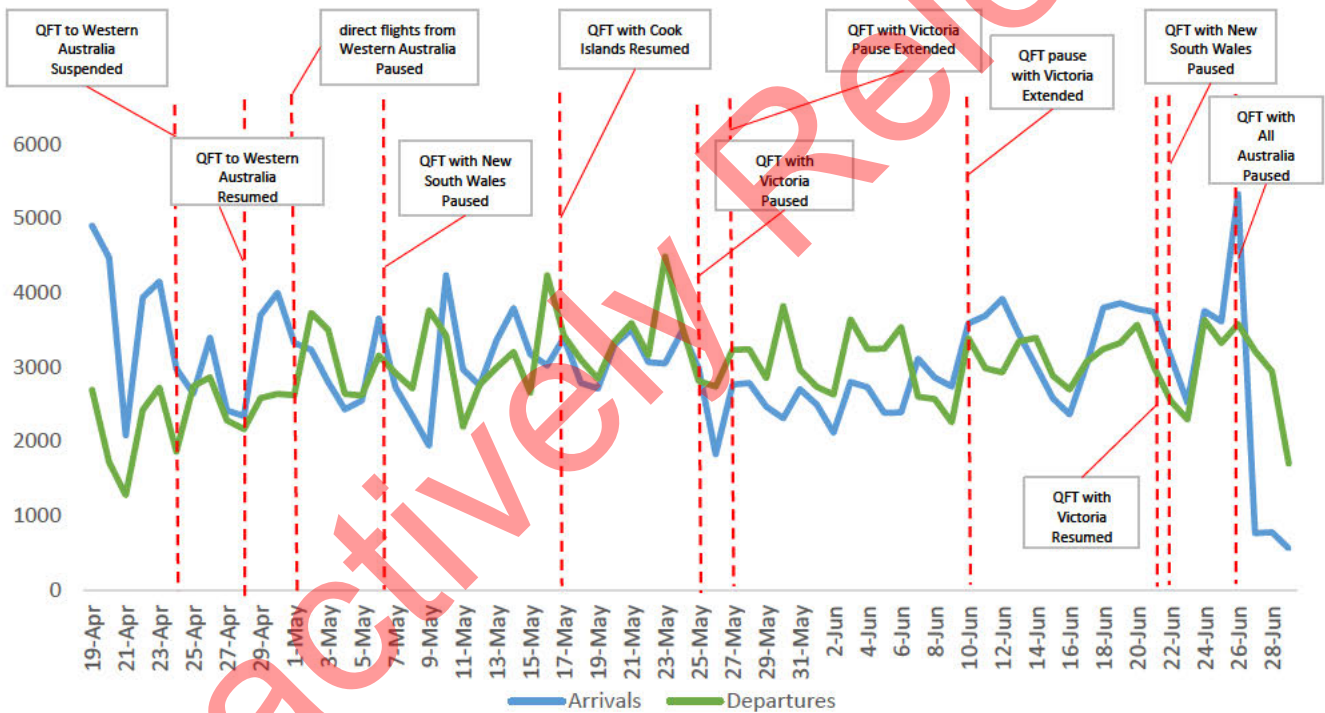
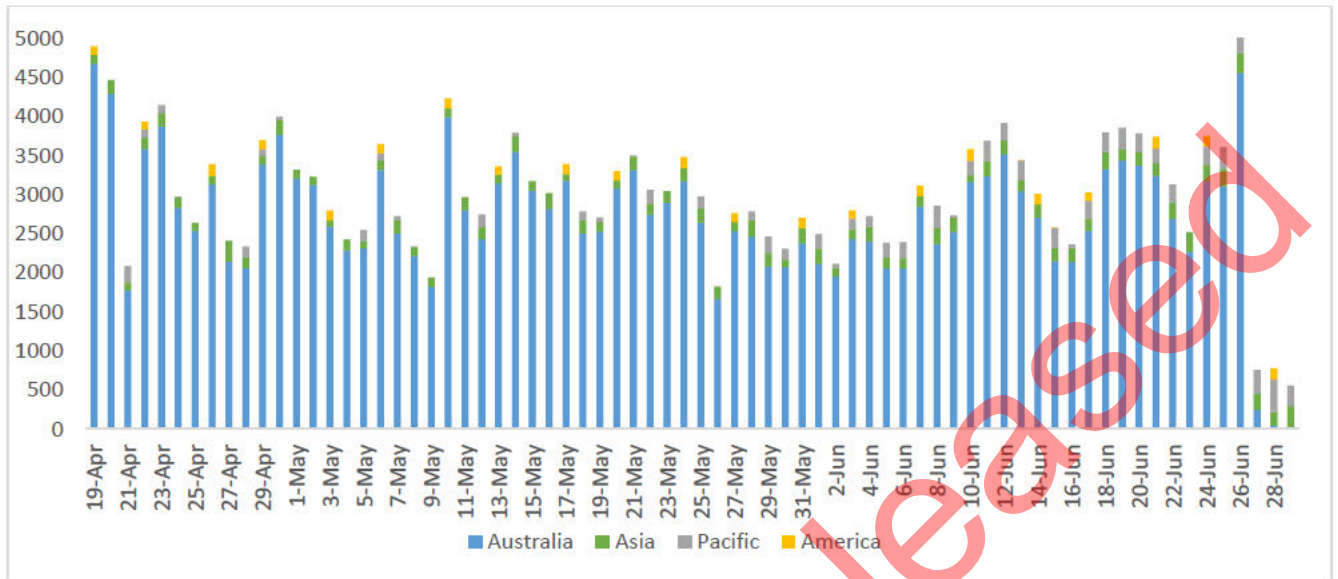


Figure 2: International Flight Arrivals – 19 April to 29 June



Arrivals to New Zealand by previous port were as follows:

- Australia: 90%
- Asia: 5%
- Pacific: 4%
- America: 1%

Figure 3: International Flight Departures – 19 April to 29 June



Departures from New Zealand by next port were as follows:

- Australia: 87%
- Asia: 6%
- Pacific: 5%
- America: 2%

Over the 14-day period between 16 June 2021 and 29 June 2021 there have been a total of 40,997 arrivals into New Zealand and 42,108 departures, which is 1,111 more departures than arrivals over this period.

Arrivals to New Zealand by previous port over this 14-day period were as follows:

- Australia: 83% (34,147)
- Asia: 7% (2,856)
- Pacific: 8% (3,464)
- America: 1% (530)

Departures from New Zealand by next port over this 14-day period were as follows:

- Australia: 81% (34,244)
- Asia: 7% (2,955)
- Pacific: 10% (4,176)
- America: 2% (733)

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

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### 3. Ministry of Health Weekly Report



#### 3.1 Items to Note/Updates

##### 3.1.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme Text

As at 11.59pm 29 June 2021, 1,149,608 vaccinations have been delivered, including 444,546 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, 9 percent are Māori, 6 percent are Pasifika, and 16 percent are Asian.

67,546 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents ten percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 29 June 2021.

162 sites were active on 29 June 2021.

The allocation plan for the next seven days is for 60,955 doses across New Zealand.

##### **Book My Vaccine**

As of 29 June 2021, Book My Vaccine is operational across 58 sites and has been used to make 160,023 bookings.

The Ministry of Health continues to support district health boards (DHBs) with technical advice and planning for migration of existing bookings into the national system.

The first data migration began on 28 June 2021 for all sites with the Auckland Metro region. This migration will shift all remaining sites to the National Immunisation Booking Solution (NIBS) (outside of the pilot sites). The data migration process agreed with Auckland Metro will standardise the migration approach for the remaining DHBs.

##### **Mass vaccination events**

Northern Regional Health Co-ordination Centre (NRHCC) is planning a dry run of the mass vaccination delivery model in the week ending 2 July 2021, with a focus on testing the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR). A wet run is planned for the days before the event.

NRHCC is finalising dates for formal communications about the first event. It is anticipated that bookings for this event will open on 12 July 2021.

##### **Provisional approval for Pfizer vaccine for people aged 12 to 15 years**

Medsafe has given provisional approval for the Pfizer vaccine for people aged 12 to 15 years.

In the coming weeks Cabinet will review advice from the Ministry of Health about the 'decision to use'. Until Cabinet has approved the use of the vaccine, people aged 12 to 15 cannot be vaccinated.

This age bracket includes approximately 265,000 people. If Cabinet approve a 'decision to use' Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds, the Ministry of Health will provide advice about how young people will be able to access their vaccinations as part of the rollout.

##### **Workforce**

As of 29 June 2021, 8,453 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 3,516 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

On 23 June 2021, data migration of over 11,000 records from the old surge database to the new Hands Up database was completed. At present with new registrations from the Hands Up database there are more than 12,000 registrations for DHBs to access to recruit staff.

#### **Distribution and inventory management**

As at the end of the day on 29 June 2021, we have made 1,220 deliveries to sites across the country. This equates to delivery of 199,124 vials or 1,194,744 doses.

The Ministry of Health has now onboarded all DHBs to the new CIR Ordering & Inventory module. From 26 July 2021, DHBs will be responsible for placing orders for vaccine stock and consumables through the CIR Ordering and Inventory module.

Throughout June and July 2021, the Ministry of Health will continue to facilitate drop-in sessions to support DHBs and provide additional collateral such as quick guides, eLearns, and IT and logistics helpdesk support.

#### **Rollout of the vaccine to Polynesia**

##### **Cook Islands**

As of 28 June 2021, a total of 18,943 vaccines have been administered in the Cook Islands. Eighty three percent of the population is fully vaccinated.

##### **Niue**

As of 28 June 2021, a total of 1,199 vaccines have been administered in Niue.

##### **Next steps**

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

### 3.2 Technical Advisory Group: Update

#### **COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group**

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on 25 June 2021 and discussed the following topics:

- **Reconnecting New Zealand was discussed after a brief presentation**
  - The Ministry confirmed that the Elimination Strategy remains government policy at this time.
  - A substantial amount of work regarding reconnecting New Zealand is being undertaken by the Ministry of Health. The Ministerial groups headed by Sir Brian Roche and Professor David Skegg are also providing advice to government on this topic.
  - No decision has been made regarding the long-term strategy for the management of COVID-19 at this time (e.g. Flu Model – endemic, SmallPox Model- eradication).
- **Science updates were tabled and briefly discussed.** It was confirmed that wider distribution of the COVID-19 science updates is planned.
- **Surveillance Strategy update was briefly discussed.**
- **Update of Wellington case was presented.**



- There was discussion regarding the mandatory use of masks at Level 2.
- There was discussion regarding mandatory use of the COVID Tracer App at all levels.
- **A concern was raised regarding access to N95 masks for primary care.**
  - The primary concern was that the College of GPs had been informed that N95 masks would not be made available unless fit testing had been performed, but very few practices had been able to fit test. The Ministry will follow up.
- **TAG requested confirmation that the evidence base for vaccination in pregnancy has been distributed to the College of GPs.** It was later confirmed that the evidence base was published in the GP newsletter last week.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group**

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 22 June 2021 and the key points that were discussed were:

- **Decision to use Janssen vaccine:** CVTAG considered recommendations for the decision to use the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Overall, CVTAG felt that there is little gain in using the Janssen vaccine, given that it has lower efficacy than the Pfizer vaccine and noting the safety signals. It will be challenging to communicate the benefits versus the risk of this vaccine in New Zealand, where we have little community transmission. CVTAG noted that only a small supply of Janssen may be required in New Zealand as a potential alternative for some individuals to the Pfizer vaccine and highlighted the option to donate the majority of the Janssen vaccine to countries in need, when it becomes available.
- **Decision to use Pfizer vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 years:** CVTAG considered recommendations for the decision to use the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in 12 to 15-year-olds. Overall, CVTAG felt that there are other groups with higher priority than children at this stage. It would be advisable to delay until more safety data is available, especially with regards to potential safety signals such as myocarditis (inflammation of the middle layer of the heart wall), which have been reported in some overseas rollouts.
- **Dosing interval:** CVTAG was asked to give advice on the maximum interval between the two doses of Pfizer. CVTAG noted that the second dose is required for robust protection but given the lack of data, there is no scientific or clinical basis on which to recommend a specific maximum interval between doses. On clinical grounds a preference for eight to 12 weeks was noted as has been adopted in some countries.
- **Mixed vaccine for the Border Order:** Some Defence workers have been vaccinated overseas with vaccines other than Pfizer. CVTAG discussed which overseas vaccines, other than Pfizer, are acceptable in New Zealand for incoming border workers. CVTAG recommended compiling a list of vaccines that are considered acceptable for border workers. The list will be comprised of vaccines approved by regulators in countries with similar regulatory systems, such as the United States, European Union, and Australia. All border workers will have to be fully vaccinated according to the recommendations for each vaccine.

### 3.3 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 29 June 2021

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
29/6/21	Quarantine Free Travel (QFT) announcement – travel resumes with some states from 11.59pm on 4 July	MoH	Press release, web content	Yes
29/6/21	Alert Level change – Wellington region moves to Alert Level 1	MoH	Press release, web content, NZ COVID Tracer message	Yes
30/6/21	Continued monitoring and updates of locations of interest	MoH	Press release, media interviews, web content	No
30/6/21	Review of web content related to COVID-19 to ensure site remains up-to-date (underway)	MoH	Web content	No
Week of 5 July	Potential Cabinet decisions on mask wearing and QR code scanning	DPMC	Press release, media interviews, web content	Yes
Week of 5 July	Development of a new visual banner for COVID-19 communications	MoH	Design	No
July/August	Development of campaign to re-engage New Zealanders in scanning, wearing masks, public health behaviours	DPMC	Advertising, collateral, web content	TBC

Proactively Released

## 4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

### 4.1 Top Items to Note

#### 4.1.1 Staff testing update – compliance statistics for 21 to 27 June 2021

To avoid duplication, please see MOH’s BEB dashboard for latest compliance figures for the MBIE total ‘active’ workers.

We are reporting on a subset of that full data separately here, which focuses on the compliance of workers on site for the previous work-week. This way we ensure we have data for a full seven day cycle, drawn from the Who’s-on-Location system.

While we look at the total ‘active’ workforce measure as part of our follow up work, we also want to understand the compliance of our workers on site in the last week.

Workers on site 21– 27 June 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,150	91% (97% if Hamilton excluded)
Overdue NHI-matched workers	414 (135 if Hamilton excluded)	9% (3% if Hamilton excluded)
Need NHI-match	58	
Workers on site with NHI match	4,622	

Of the 58 that still need an NHI-match, 38 were created in BWTR in the last seven days.

Of the 17 workers who were recorded as ‘no swab’ in last week’s report, we have confirmed eight of them have been swabbed (data is not pulling through due to the Waikato DHB cyber-attack), four others are also in Hamilton but we are still awaiting confirmation of their swabs, two have NHI issues which we have raised with MOH for resolution and we are still working to get details for the remaining three.

#### 4.1.2 Vaccination of frontline staff update

Vaccination follow-ups for those with an ‘unknown’ status in BWTR identified two workers gaining access who did not meet the vaccination requirements.

One was an unvaccinated vending machine worker who had been incorrectly let into a ‘green zone’ of a facility without an exemption or vaccine status check. They entered just inside the entrance to the staff area to re-fill the vending machine. The company has been advised that the worker cannot enter without vaccination proof. Security have also been reminded of the required standards to ensure this does not occur again. The other situation was a hotel worker at the SO Auckland Hotel who had not had their second dose within 35 days as required, however they are now fully vaccinated. These were both identified through our routine assurance activities.

In another incident, a vaccinated hotel worker in Christchurch accessed a facility with their adult son (unvaccinated) through an unmanned but locked (coded combination lock) back entrance. They knowingly did so to avoid the designated staff entrance so they did not have to engage with security. They entered through this locked entrance to access the freezer as the son had shot a wild pig and they wanted to use the kitchen freezer to store it. The incident was reported by a staff member after the breach was found on the CCTV footage. This is now an employment matter and the door is being fitted with an alarm. Information has also been provided to Public Health to follow up with the man, including a day five test.

According to BWTR, the total number of workers on site last week with vaccination status 'unknown' was 136 (3% of the workforce). Of these 136 workers, 58 have yet to be NHI matched and have their vaccination status confirmed in BWTR which leaves 78 where their vaccination status is unknown. Due to a lag in data uploading into BWTR and NHI issues, we will follow up with the employers of those 78 workers to confirm their vaccination status.

There are currently three hotel workers who are unable/unwilling to get fully vaccinated. These workers are not able to work in the MIQF while hotel employers work through the necessary employment processes with them. We will continue following up with these employers until these cases are resolved.

A fourth worker who was unable/unwilling to be vaccinated is on leave and is being supported by the Ministry of Social Development until they commence parental leave. Their vaccination status will be addressed on their potential return to work in the future. Until then, we deem this resolved.

## 4.2 Operational update

### 4.2.1 Capacity update

As of 7am 29 June 2021, there is currently no availability on MIAS.

On 23 June 2021, 765 rooms were released, spread across August, September and October. The 765 rooms released lasted less than an hour before there was no availability on MIAS again.

The next release for rooms in August through to October 2021 will be this week as follows: August 2021 up to 90% of rooms, September 2021 up to 60% of rooms, October 2021 up to 40%.

The November 2021 flight schedule is due from Air New Zealand this week. Once we receive that, we can release up to 40% of rooms for November 2021.

The December 2021 schedule is due mid-July 2021 from Air New Zealand.

### 4.2.2 Grand Millennium re-designation

The Grand Millennium has been re-designated, as at 29 June 2021, following the completion of the remediation work.

One hundred and forty returnees were received at the facility from a flight that arrived on Tuesday 29 June 2021. The facility will be filled up in line with the cohorting arrangements, with the next cohort scheduled for 14 July 2021.

### 4.2.3 Ombudsman update

In the last week we responded to:

- the follow ups on the Sudima Rotorua and Four Points Auckland;
- a provisional report on the Naumi Auckland; and
- a final report on the Grand Mercure Wellington.

We continue to work on the follow up in relation to the implementation of recommendations arising from the inspection of the Rydges Rotorua, which we aim to complete this week.

We are preparing our response to the final report on the Novotel Christchurch, which is due on 1 July 2021.



We are preparing our response to the provisional report on the Ramada Auckland, which is due on 5 July 2021.

We received the final reports on the SO Hotel and the Commodore Christchurch on 25 June 2021. Our responses to both reports are due on the 9 July 2021.

#### 4.2.4 Security Enhancement Programme update

MBIE is on track to move to a blended security workforce by August 2021 consisting of NZDF, Avsec and MBIE security officers whilst retaining a residual contracted security workforce from a single provider.

Wellington and the Christchurch Region have MBIE security officers in place (16 and 18 respectively) and hotel contracted security personnel have been offboarded.

As of 28 June 2021, 13 MBIE security officers have commenced being onboarded and inducted into Hamilton. Two further recruits are expected, bringing the overall Hamilton total to 15 personnel. Hotel contracted security personnel will progressively be offboarded.

Rotorua are expecting to receive 18 MBIE security officers on 5 July 2021.

Auckland MBIE security officers will commence onboarding on 5 July 2021 (9 personnel initially). The Auckland onboarding will be staged over 5 weeks with a total of 105 MBIE security officers expected.

#### 4.2.5 Cohorting

There are a few facilities which are exempt from cohorting. These include Waipuna (for returnees with additional healthcare needs), Novotel Auckland Airport (mariners, transits), M Social (aircrew), Holiday Inn (refugees), SO Hotel (UAM and diplomats) and sometimes the Chateau on the Park (sports teams).

'General' returnees still go into these MIFs. Flights are still allocated into these facilities within 96 hour periods and some 'cohorting' practices are implemented within the facilities, such as only being able to access smoking/fresh air time within the times scheduled for the cohort.

#### 4.2.6 Ending offsite Managed Isolation Walks at four Auckland MIFs

Four of the Auckland Managed Isolation Facilities (Rydges, Four Points, SO, Grand Mercure) have for the past year supplemented their onsite exercise space with offsite provision – whereby returnees are bussed to a site in Mt Albert for fresh air and exercise. The process is known as 'Managed Isolation Walks' (MIWs). The MIWs, particularly the transport process, pose risks and challenges for infection prevention and control and have led to some returnees having their stay extended, as was the case in the Grand Mercure incident in March 2021.

The bus trips can take a substantial period of time; potentially 2x 30 minute bus trips per returnee per day, or longer in cases of high traffic, and provide a number of ways for infection transmission to occur. These include bubble breaches and poor ventilation on the buses. MIWs also add limited capacity for exercise and fresh air beyond that available at the facilities, as each bus can only carry between 4 and 10 returnees depending on their bubble configuration.

Due to the transmission risk associated with MIW processes, and based on a review by MIQ, we have decided to stop using MIWs at these four facilities, and, instead, leverage new and existing onsite exercise areas for access to fresh air. Other mental health supports are also in place and



available to returnees. Public health advice from the Ministry of Health supports the decision to end offsite MIWs. Each facility will cease offering MIWs at the next cohort change, within the next month, noting that the Grand Mercure has already ceased offsite MIWs when it came back online recently. We will closely monitor the relevant sites for any potential issues that may arise from the ending of MIWs, but do not expect to report further unless an issue arises.

We will inform the Ombudsman of this decision and are preparing communications should we receive queries about ending MIWs.

#### 4.2.7 Hiki Wairua

On 11 May 2021, MIQ discussed the future approach to pastoral care of the MIQ workforce. The programme will be referred to as Hiki Wairua. Hiki Wairua aims to improve the overall welfare and wellbeing of the entire MIQ whānau, while recognising the great work done by our workforce.

Over the coming months, we are planning to release the following initiatives within the Hiki Wairua programme:

##### **#treatmefairly**

MBIE MIQ are aware of MIQ workers facing discrimination or being treated unfairly in their communities because they work at MIQ. In response, we are rolling out an initiative that will provide a mechanism for workers to report instances of discrimination or stigmatisation. This initiative is known as #treatmefairly.

We will be encouraging workers to let us know about situations where they are discriminated against or treated differently because they work at MIQ. Reports of discrimination, particularly reports of denied access to services or facilities, will be investigated. We will also work with organisations we have received reports about to help them do the right thing and understand what their actions mean for MIQ workers.

From Friday 2 July 2021 we will be communicating with staff about the upcoming process, which is planned for implementation on Friday 9 July 2021. The communications will provide key messaging that includes what discrimination is, how to report it, and what MBIE MIQ will do with the reports, including support provided. Further communications are planned as the process evolves into business as usual.

##### **MIQ Workplace Survey**

The second initiative is the MIQ Workplace Survey. This survey will span all agencies and employees and will be live from 19 July 2021. The survey will focus on health and safety, wellbeing, discrimination, employee engagement, Māori engagement and employee recognition.

To get the maximum response rate the survey will be made available via online and in paper mode. The survey will be bi-annual.

##### **Further initiatives**

There are several more initiatives in the pipeline, including a communications approach against worker discrimination, wellbeing training content and MIQ worker recognition and awards. Further details on these will be provided in the future.

### 4.3 Schedule of Reviews

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
Sudden Death Critical Incident Review	January 2021	June 2021	Complete – We are preparing a briefing for mid-July. .	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.
MIQ Staff Unwell - Health Checks (control hotspot)	May 2021	June 2021	Complete	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
Financial Management Review	May 2021	July 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 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.
MIQ Exemptions Review	June 2021	July 2021	In progress	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>	In progress. The Ventilation group (VWG) have reviewed the results of 27 facilities and meetings have been held with 25 facilities with remediation proposals requested from these facilities. Some facilities have already commenced maintenance/ remediation work to address initial findings with detailed remediation proposals received for 12 sites.	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.
Fees and Waiver Review	Scheduled to start September 2021	October 2021	Planning	TBC
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	Draft report for phase one has been received. Phase two in progress.	To assess the arrangements in place to support compliance with the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020.

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
		wider border) still TBC when it will be completed		
<b>Regular, ongoing reviews</b>				
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 is 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.

#### 4.4 Large Group Arrivals Update

*Summary of approved group arrivals as at 29 June 2021*

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
NZDF Operation WHIO	26 Jul 2021	35	35	35 personnel arriving on a commercial flight and 16 on a military flight.
	29 Jul 2021	16	16	
RSE	4 Jul 2021	150	116 (150 pax) TBC	Industry have signed the Crown Services Agreement. The first cohort of 150 RSE workers are arriving on 4 July 2021, with further RSE cohorts arriving every 16 days concluding March 2022. This includes a reduction in numbers in October 2021 as directed by Ministers. RSE arrivals will be accommodated at two MIFs in Hamilton in a mix of single and twin rooms – a minimum of 116 rooms for 150 pax will be utilised.
	21 Jul 2021	150	TBC	
	7 Aug 2021	150	TBC	
Rugby Fiji	18 Jun 2021	47	29	The Fijian men's rugby team have successfully had their exemption to train enacted with on-site and off-site training beginning over the weekend of 26-27 June. All team members have returned negative day 0, 3 and 6 tests. They have been well behaved in the MIF and engagement with team management has been positive.
International Students	2 Jun 2021	100	4	MoE have experienced difficulty in filling up the flights. 42 vouchers were used out of the 400 allocated. As MoE were unable to fill the allocation promised, this resulted in significant room wastage.
	9 Jun 2021	100	12	
	16 Jun 2021	100	6	
	23 Jun 2021	100	20	
Refugees – Intake 1	24 Jun 2021	25	13 (25 pax)	The first intake of refugee families has begun arriving with 95 pax having arrived this far. s9(2)(a) [redacted] [redacted] They were from the flights on 24 and 26 June 2021. Interpreters and staff who assisted at the airport during this time have been stood down, tested and have all returned negative results to date. Due to an error in the International Organisation of Migrant's system, 10 pax scheduled to arrive on 28 June 2021 are arriving 29 June 2021 instead. Note that as
	25 Jun 2021	18	10 (18 pax)	
	26 Jun 2021	52	28 (52 pax)	
	28 Jun 2021	13	8 (13 pax)	
	2 Jul 2021	9	5 (9 pax)	
	8 Jul 2021	9	5 (9 pax)	



Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
				refugees tend to arrive in family groups, the number of rooms allocated are determined close to arrival.
Construction Accord	Jun 2021	60	0	The Construction Sector Accord have confirmed that they will not be using the 60 approved June or July 2021 allocations.
	Jul 2021	60	0	
	Aug 2021	60	TBC	
	Sep 2021	60	TBC	
Winter Games	19 Jul 2021	30	0	Major Events advised that there are non-MIQ related obstacles that have prevented this event proceeding and that it has been postponed to 2022.
Antarctic USAP	16 Jul 2021	36	TBC	This group will be entering on charter flights direct into Christchurch.
	19 Jul 2021	169	TBC	
Netball – English Roses	19 Jul 2021	30	TBC	This will be the first sports team under the new full cost recovery model. Engagement with Netball New Zealand regarding this group has begun. The arrival date is to be confirmed
Returning Olympic Athletes (3 cohorts)	2 Aug 2021	~200	TBC	Extensive planning is underway for the arrival and management of athletes, staff and media returning to NZ on three large charter flights. If within allocation limits, SportNZ and NZOC will facilitate some Pacific Island Olympic athletes to return as part of the group. A scenario planning workshop will be held on 30 June to consider significant events that could impact Olympic returnees return or time in managed isolation.
	8 Aug 2021	~200	TBC	
	10 Aug 2021	~200	TBC	
Paralympic athletes	Sep 2021	100	5	This is athletes and management returning from the Paralympics in Tokyo. They are returning as multiple smaller groups, with the majority of MIQ secured via MIAS. Detailed planning is underway to ensure those with increased needs are well cared for in MIQ.

#### 4.4.1 Time Sensitive Travel

Preparations are underway for the next submission window for Time Sensitive Travel that opens 1 to 14 July 2021 for the travel period of 1 September to 31 October 2021.

All development of the online application form and supporting Case Management System has been completed and is ready for the expected release date of 30 June 2021.

#### 4.4.2 Expressions of Interest for Group Allocation

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for group allocations for groups arriving from November 2021 through to the end of March 2022 have been assessed and draft packages considered by the Border Exception Senior Officials Group.

The Group Allocation package will be considered by the Border Exception Ministers Group on 5 July 2021.

#### 4.5 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 29 June 2021

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
30 June 2021	Time sensitive travel allocation starts	MIQ	Reactive and on website	N
1 July 2021	150,000 people have been through MIQ	MIQ	Proactive social media	TBC
July 2021	Venter report on MIQ testing	BEB	Proactive communications	Y
4 July 2021	150 RSE workers arrive and go to Hamilton	MIQ	Proactive communications	TBC
13 July 2021	MIQ one year at MBIE	MIQ	Internal Communications	N

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
11-15 July 2021	Decision on three Managed Isolation Walks implemented	MIQ	Reactive	N

#### 4.6 Fees

##### 4.6.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to the 27 June 2021.

Invoices have various repayment terms depending on whether they are a sports group (10 days), critical worker (30 days) or standard returnee/maritime crew/aircrew (90 days).

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued overdue	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days overdue	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups <sup>1</sup>	73	29	42	2	\$14,160,944	\$13,899,656	\$254,232	\$7,056	0	\$0
Maritime	321	221	78	22	\$1,397,174	\$1,031,698	\$315,998	\$49,479	5	\$3,986
Aircrew	204	133	11	60	\$1,088,205	\$766,446	\$69,086	\$252,673	4	\$53,197
Other	19,480	9,083	8,002	2,395	\$69,959,145	\$34,341,314	\$28,699,619	\$6,918,212	914	\$2,755,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,078</b>	<b>9,466</b>	<b>8,133</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>\$86,605,468</b>	<b>\$50,039,114</b>	<b>\$29,338,935</b>	<b>\$7,227,420</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>\$2,812,573</b>

<sup>1</sup>Please note that this previously only included large groups. However going forward, this now includes critical workers and critical health workers.

Note: The '90+ days Overdue' column represents the number of invoices from the 'Issued overdue' column that have been outstanding for 90+ day.

##### 4.6.2 Weekly Average Invoicing and Debt Recovery %

The table below reflects the weekly average of invoicing from 11 August 2020.

The increase in the average invoicing for '2-4 weeks' is due to the introduction of the new invoicing platform which went live on 31 May 2021. This has dropped the past week as the post 25 March 2021 backlog is being cleared with focus now on more complicated liability determination.

Bucket	Average invoicing per week (\$)
Past week	\$2,022,332
2-4 weeks	\$6,600,159
5-8 weeks	\$1,350,351
9+ weeks	\$1,371,844

##### 4.6.3 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 27 June 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
7,819	1,526	6,293	807	5,486	86	4,708	721	778



#### 4.7 Emergency Allocation Applications

3,399 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020.

198 applications were received in the week ending 27 June 2021 and 88 applications were processed.

From the applications processed in the week ending 27 June 2021, 59% of the applications were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 21 Jun 2021 to 27 Jun 2021	Year to Date Totals 30 Oct 2020 to 27 Jun 2021
Approved	52	1,903
Declined	36	1,496
Applications processed*	88	3,399

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

<b>Total Rooms Approved</b>	<b>61</b>
Rooms Allocated in MIAS	57
Cancelled by the applicant	0
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	4

#### 4.8 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 22 June to 28 June 2021 is as follows:

Week 22 Jun 2021 – 28 Jun 2021	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	119	28	116
Improvements	1	0	2
Compliments	2	0	3
Queries	9	0	9
Ombudsman	10	34	7
Parliamentary/OIA	4	0	4
Other	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>141</b>

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 104. For the last four weeks the average is 106 per week.

This week we have received 145 new cases and have resolved 141 cases.

We have continued to see an increase in complaints this week, with 64 MIAS complaints received representing 54% of all complaints. The complaints are mostly due to technical issues or being unable to book vouchers for travel to New Zealand. For Emergency Allocation we received 18 complaints, more than quadruple the number received last week. Numbers for MIFs, fee waivers and isolation exemptions remain steady.

## 5. Border Executive Board Report



### 5.1 Key Issues Being Considered by the Executive Board

#### 5.1.1 Quarantine Free Travel

The pause, initially with Sydney before being widened out to all of Australia, has been a major focus of border agencies this week.

Advice, including around assurance, has been provided on **implementing pre-departure testing** for flights from Australia. This has considered activity in the short term, as well as looking ahead to what resourcing may be required to support a greater percentage of PDT checks on a longer-term basis.

Advice has also been provided on the process and timeline for commencement of **two-way quarantine-free travel between Niue and New Zealand**.

Border agencies supported an oral item on **one-way quarantine-free travel cohorts from COVID-free Pacific countries**. A paper for the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on 7 July will outline options and decisions for increasing RSE worker flows in time for increased seasonal demand from October/November 2021, and seek agreement to commence discussions with Pacific countries to progress this.

#### 5.1.2 Mandatory Vaccination for Border Workers – Phase 2

To support the implementation of the proposed Vaccinations Amendment Order, Morag Ingham has been appointed as overall programme lead.

The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Amendment Order 2021 is out for Ministerial consultation. The current timeline has this being gazetted on Tuesday 13 July and coming into effect at 11.59pm on Thursday 15 July.

#### 5.1.3 Reconnecting New Zealand with the World

With the Chief Executive of Auckland International Airport Limited, the Chair of the Board has invited Chief Executives to discuss “a safe and smart border – how we might reconnect with the world.” In addition to Border Executive Board members, invitees include Air New Zealand, Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand Christchurch and Wellington airports. The invitation has also been extended to COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group members, Sir Brian Roche and Rob Fyfe.

## 6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



### 6.1 Items to Note/Updates

#### 6.1.1 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 21 June 2021 to 27 June 2021, there was one infringement and two warnings issued.

- 26 June – A family of three (father and two sons) arrived from the United States via Dubai. All three passengers had PDT documentation which was non-compliant as it did not specify the type of test, date of sample collection or the laboratory location/site. An infringement was issued to the father as he had organised the tests and a warning letter issued to each of the sons.

#### Passengers

	Date	21 June	22 June	23 June	24 June	25 June	26 June	27 June	Week Total	%
	Total Passengers	3806	3062	2597	3662	3698	5324	770	22919	
	Passengers subject to PDT	309	207	252	341	231	447	210	1997	8.7%
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	284	192	242	313	219	424	197	1871	93.7%
	Exemption Verified	14	6	7	12	9	5	70	70	3.5%
	Referred to Secondary Area	11	9	3	16	3	2	3	56	2.8%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	11	9	3	16	3	2	3	53	94.6%
	Warned	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3.6%
	Infringement	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1.8%
	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### Crew

	Date	21 June	22 June	23 June	24 June	25 June	26 June	27 June	Week Total	%
	Crew subject to PDT	69	65	85	38	57	76	9	399	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	69	65	85	38	57	75	7	396	99.3%
	Exemption Verified	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.5%
	Referred to Secondary Area	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.2%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	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



### 6.1.2 Passenger Numbers – Cook Islands



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## 7. Office of the Auditor-General



### 7.1 Performance Audit

Since late 2020 the Office of the Auditor-General has been carrying out a performance review of the planning and co-ordination of the national response to COVID-19 (mainly by DPMC throughout last year). They are looking to answer the question: have improvements in the Government's response to COVID-19 been identified and put in place so that NZ is better able to deal with future outbreaks?

The audit team's preliminary findings will shortly be delivered to DPMC for noting and comment. We will provide your office with a copy to note at that time.

OAG will then prepare a draft report and share it with the Department for feedback. The intention at this stage is for the final report to be presented to Parliament in the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021, most likely in September.

Proactively Released

## 8. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

### 8.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board did not meet this week. The next fortnightly meeting for the Board will take place on 6 July, after which we will provide an update on the outcome of the meeting.

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

### 9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group met on 29 June and the primary focus of the conversation was on refining the elements of their work programme. Sir Brian Roche, Chair of the Group, and Rob Fyfe also met with Christine Stevenson, Chief Executive of Customs, on 23 June to discuss how the Group can engage in the continued evolution of the COVID-19 border system through real-time insights. The delivery of advice will be iterative and targeted to address questions that are key to ensure the continued effectiveness of the border system.

The paper on the Group's review of the Auckland February 2021 outbreak response and their forward work programme went to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on Wednesday 30 June and is going to Cabinet on Monday 5 July. The Group's Secretariat is preparing for proactive release of the first tranche of documents following report back to Cabinet. The date for proactive release is yet to be confirmed but is expected to be later in the week beginning 5 July.

## 10. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

### 10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group did not meet this week. The next fortnightly meeting for the Group will take place on 7 July, after which we will provide you with an update on the outcome of the meeting.

## 11. Business Leaders Forum

### 11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The next likely engagement for the Business Leaders' Forum will be on options to encourage businesses to support the use of public health measures. The next meeting is yet to be scheduled.

## 12. Government Modelling Group

### 12.1 Items to Note/Updates

Te Punaha Matatini released their initial modelling results on Wednesday 30 June. This public release relates to the same material that Ministers received briefings on through May and June.



The publication was picked up by national media, with headlines noting that a “herd immunity” state may be unattainable (in reference to a state where outbreaks would end without any form of government intervention or behavioural response in the population). Coverage included different figures for the vaccination coverage that would be required to reach such a state, varying from 80% to 97% across different outlets. The difference in figures used relate to different assumptions about virus transmissibility and vaccine effectiveness, but all coverage noted that a very high level of vaccination was likely to be required. Commentary alongside the reporting of results amplified the messages that public health controls including border restrictions would continue to be required to avert significant public health risks until the vaccination programme is largely complete.

Officials will meet with Te Punaha Matatini researchers to discuss the forward work programme, providing an update in a future weekly report regarding research priorities and timelines. Officials have also been engaging with statisticians, aiming to support the Ministry of Health’s work on country risk assessments.

Proactively Released

### 13. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

Title	Agency	Committee	Date Expected	Key Contact	Purpose of Paper	Agency Comment
s9(2)(f)(iv)						

Proactively Released

## 14. Official Information Act Requests

### 14.1 Ministry of Health

Date due	Requestor	OIA Request	Status
29 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	<b>Briefings/reports/aides-mémoire to you and your office from the Ministry of Health relating to saliva testing in 2021</b>	<b>In progress</b>
8 Jul 21		Emails from 24th January 2020 to 10th June 2021 to do with COVID-19 and its other known names as Novel coronavirus and SARS-CoV-2	In progress
12 Jul 21		Annexes to the December 18, 2020 briefing "Supply agreement for purchase of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer New Zealand Ltd." Information relating to the "Decision to Use Framework"	In progress
13 Jul 21		Questions and information in relation to New Zealand's purchase and receipt of COVID-19 vaccinations through the COVAX initiative. Documents referred to in Written Parliamentary Question 23143 (2021).	In progress
13 Jul 21		Information relating to re-opening New Zealand's border.	In progress
19 Jul 21		Information relating to the rules for air crew from Air NZ (and other airlines, if applicable) now that COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered, and what the rules should be regarding isolation/quarantine.	In progress
26 Jul 21		Specific, named documents.	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)		All docs etc. for MIQ charges policy incl. for treaty obligations & BORA	Overdue
23 Dec 20			Complaints lodged by residents of managed isolation facilities	Under review
18 Mar 21			Subsequent advice from meetings with iwi about MIQ facilities	Decision on request sent
29 Mar 21			Complaints at MIQ - Workers who has been dismissed and reasons at MIQ	Under review
30 Apr 21			All docs re COVID contact tracing card trial at Bay Plaza in Welly 7/12/20	Under review
11 May 21			Identity of certain NZDF staff at an MIQ facility	Under review
17 May 21			Advice to Minister's on current testing rates and addressing challenges	Packaging
24 May 21			Information around Oriental Bay Plaza Wellington requesting no MIQ signs	Under review
25 May 21			Details around any security breaches at MIQ facility on Oriental Parade	Under review
11 Jun 21			All comms between MBIE and Pullman hotel management Jan 2021-Mar 2021	Gathering information
16 Jun 21			Release of document re; Assessment of Proposals for a sport MIQ Facility	Gathering information
21 Jun 21			Details on MIQ breaches from 14th of June 20 until the 21st of April 21	Drafting
23 Jun 21			RE no. of people in quarantine being involuntarily detained by DHBs	Scoping

Date due	Requestor	Media/Opposition	OIA Request	Status
1 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)		Number of people through MIQ and cost to government	Approved
1 Jul 21			RE statistics on how many security guards work at MIQ fac. & costs	Minister's office
2 Jul 21			Corr regarding NZ citizen from Melbourne travelling to see sick relative	Drafting
2 Jul 21			Complaints made by MIQ facilities about first security	Under review
2 Jul 21			Corr from MIQ facilities enquiring no longer being a MIQ facility	Packaging
2 Jul 21			Data on no. of children & demographics that have stayed in MIQ facility	Gathering information
5 Jul 21			Complaints procedure and the process followed once this is initiated	Drafting
5 Jul 21			All correspondence received and sent by C-RIQ staff between 20/9-20/11/20	Drafting
5 Jul 21			Records about gas meter reading company Arthur D Riley reading meter at MIQ	Under review
12 Jul 21			Information around fee waivers which have been granted to MIQ stayers	Drafting
13 Jul 21			Copy of 2021-2426 Managing the movement of returnees during and after MIQ	Under review
14 Jul 21			Papers re; Offshore maritime workers - challenges accessing space in MIQ	Minister's office
15 Jul 21			MIQ policy for space tourism	Response sent
16 Jul 21			All reports to the Minister and Cabinet on the voucher allocation system	Gathering information
19 Jul 21			<b>Copy of a report completed by medical assessment company</b>	<b>Under review</b>
19 Jul 21			<b>Cost of retrofitting motels/hotels into MIQ facilities</b>	<b>Gathering information</b>
23 Jul 21			<b>Re; DOIA 2021-1451 - Correspondence around luxury lodge owner in Northland</b>	<b>Scoping</b>
23 Jul 21			Queries on SIM cards in MIQ	Approved

### 14.3 COVID-19 Group

Date due	Requestor	OIA Request	Status
29 Mar 21	s9(2)(a)	All documentation pertaining to the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts that your organization has been involved in 2020.	Drafting
29 Jun 21		Marketing and PR data for COVID-19 messaging.	Scoping
6 Jul 21		Communications between the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Health concerning the communication plans for the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in calendar year 2021 to date.	Scoping
12 Jul 21		Request for an audio recording and transcript of the Ministry of Health's COVID vaccine advertisement that aired on Spotify during April/May 2021.	Scoping
13 Jul 21		Meeting minutes of the two advisory groups and advice provided to the two ministers for the period between 18 May to 15 June. Copies of COVID-19 Response Weekly Reports for the period between February to 15 June.	Scoping
13 Jul 21		Advice, briefings, reports, aides memoire and memos sent and/or received by the Minister relating to re-opening New Zealand's border.	Scoping



Date due	Requestor	OIA Request	Status
14 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Advice, briefings, reports, aides memoire and memos sent and/or received by the Prime Minister relating to re-opening New Zealand's border from January 2021.	Scoping
14 Jul 21		All papers/letters/advice/correspondence received by the COVID19 Group from each group since they were established.	Scoping
14 Jul 21		All information regarding COVID-19 advertisements, (including cost breakdown of advertisements). Specifically include information on Ka Kite advert.	Scoping
14 Jul 21		Copy of television advertising produced for the 'Unite against COVID-19' campaigns from November 2020 onwards.	Scoping
16 Jul 21		All information regarding Covid-19 communications response between Clemenger BBDO and OMD, with DPMC between March 8th and March 24th 2020.	Scoping
16 Jul 21		All information (including correspondence and advice) to ministers regarding vaccinated NZ residents/Citizens returning from overseas and their need to isolate in an MIQ facility.	Scoping
16 Jul 21		Information provided to Med safe from Pfizer in its application for Comirnaty regarding risk to patients including any reported cases of harm to patients with particular regard to nanogel particles and the effect of mRNA on the body.	Sign out
16 Jul 21		Information on the following questions, 1. How many Covid19 infected persons in MIQ were admitted to Hospital? 2. How many COVID19 infected persons were put on a respirator? 3. How many COVID 19 infected persons died in MIQ?	Scoping
19 Jul 21		Any documents, reports, briefings, correspondence or analyses produced or held by DPMC relating to the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, since December 1, 2019, excluding internal emails and text messages	Scoping
20 Jul 21		Cabinet papers, documents and minutes, in which the recommendations from the Ministry of Health about the Covid-19 immunisation strategy between October 1 2020 to February 28 2021.	Scoping
22 Jul 21		All Cabinet Papers and preparatory materials which relate to resolving the issue of New Zealand citizens & Permanent Residents' offshore partners who are stuck in the "General Visitor Visa" queue at Immigration New Zealand.	Scoping
22 Jul 21		Who does the voiceover of the COVID 19 ads.	Drafting
20 Jul 21		Please could you urgently provide copies of all information relied on to extend the Epidemic Preparedness Notice in June 2021.	Drafting

#### 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
19 July 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.	In Progress (Extended)
6 July 21		Copies of all briefings, aides memoire, emails, memos and Cabinet Papers (including draft Cabinet Papers) developed by the Border Sector Governance Group (BSGG) in relation to maritime crew for the period 1 March 2020 to 1 June 2021.	Scoping

### 15. Appendix – Ministry of Health Weekly Updates on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the Border

	Audit summary	Audit high-risk findings, and actions taken to remedy	Incidents/Reviews	IPC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), operations frameworks and guidance documents
<b>Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IPC audits of Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs) ongoing.</li><li>• Completion date for IPC Audit 4 currently 09/07/2021. Scheduling audits has been hampered by facility maintenance closures.</li><li>• No high-risk findings from three Rotorua MIQF audits completed week of 21 to 25 June 2021.</li></ul>			
<b>Airports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quarterly Airport IPC Assurance Walk-through scheduled for July. Dates for these audits are dependent on International flight schedules.</li><li>• Proposed dates</li><li>• Auckland 12 July (Red and QFTZ)</li><li>• Wellington 13 July (QFTZ)</li><li>• Rongotai 13 July (Red)</li><li>• Christchurch 14 July (Red and QFTZ)</li><li>• Queenstown 19 July August (QFTZ)</li></ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The drafted version 1.3 for the IPC guidance for the air border for green and red zones were sent to stakeholders for consultation, with responses due on 30 June 2022.</li><li>• Work is progressing on the Green and Red zone Health Operations Framework.</li></ul>
<b>Maritime/Ports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning continues for IPC assurance walk-throughs at maritime ports. Meeting to be scheduled to determine scope.</li><li>• Proposed date to visit to Nelson Marlborough Port in the third week of July.</li><li>• Draft assurance walk-through audit tool completed. Awaiting IPC review.</li></ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No changes to the PPE – IPC document which is currently posted on Maritime NZ’s website.</li></ul>

Proactively Released

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