



7 July 2022



Ref: OIA-2021/22-1103

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to the Northland border breach

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 13 March 2022. You requested:

"I refer to the following release from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) which says "The Ministry provided an update on the travellers in Northland to the Department of Prime Minister Cabinet (DPMC)."

Under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982, I request the following information:

- *The information MSD provided DPMC referenced in the release*
- *All other information, communication and correspondence DPMC received, holds or produced regarding the two women who travelled from Auckland to Northland in October 2021 with border exemptions that were subsequently revoked."*

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because consultations were required before a decision could be made on the request. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I believe that the part of your request for information that the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) provided the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) referenced in the MSD release is more closely connected to the functions of MSD. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer this part of your request to MSD. The remainder of your request will remain with DPMC. I acknowledge that this transfer is outside of the transfer window outlined in the Act and apologise for the delay in transferring this part of your request to the appropriate agency.

MSD has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Regarding the remainder of your request, DPMC prepared a briefing paper [DPMC-2021/21-544] that recommended the Minister for COVID-19 Response sign the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements Order (No 12) Amendment Order (No 12) that moved Northland to Alert Level 3 at 11.59pm 8 October 2021. This material has been proactively released on the Unite against COVID-19 (UaC) website:

covid19.govt.nz/assets/Proactive-Releases/Alert-levels-and-restrictions/26-November-2021/ALO18-DPMC-2021-22-544-8-10-2021.pdf

For completeness, other briefings and papers relating to the period from 11.59 8 October to 11.59 19 October in which the Northland region was in Alert Level 3 can be found here:

covid19.govt.nz/about-our-covid-19-response/proactive-releases/alert-levels-and-restrictions/

Additionally, DPMC prepared a number of press releases to ensure New Zealanders were up to date with the spread of COVID-19 in Northland. The first of these press releases mentions one individual who had travelled to Northland on 2 October 2021 and later tested positive for COVID-19. You can find this press release on the UaC website:

covid19.govt.nz/news-and-data/latest-news/northland-to-move-to-alert-level-3-tonight/

A similar update was also sent to individuals who had subscribed to the UaC newsletter. You can view the email update using the following link:

createsend.com/t-t-B01603A16575140A2540EF23F30FEDED

A later press release confirmed that the travelling companion of the initial case had also tested positive for COVID-19 and had been transferred to an MIQ facility. This press release is also available on the UaC website:

covid19.govt.nz/news-and-data/latest-news/travelling-companion-of-northland-case-tests-positive-for-covid-19/

Accordingly, I am refusing your request for the above information under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

There is additional information that was prepared by the COVID-19 Group's Strategic Communications team that contains information in scope of your request. I have made the decision to release the relevant parts of Unite against COVID-19 messaging update and FAQ documents created between 8 October and 13 October 2021 (inclusive). Some information has been withheld from these documents as it is outside of the scope of your request.

I am also releasing to you email correspondence between DPMC, MSD and the Far North District Council that falls within scope of your request. This includes the business travel documents provided to DPMC by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for the Minister for COVID-19 Response. Some information in this correspondence has been withheld under the following grounds of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect private information.
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) – the release of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Fairhall
Deputy Chief Executive
COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 Message Grid

8 October 2021

This contains the most up-to-date and approved messaging on key COVID-19 matters.

Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This version was current at 18/05/2022 11:54 AM

In this edition:

Unite Against COVID-19.....1

Not in scope

Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Northland moves to Alert Level 3	From 11.59pm tonight (Friday, October 8), Northland will move to Alert Level 3.	<p>This is due to the risk presented by a positive case, who recently travelled to Northland from Auckland. They have been transferred to a quarantine facility in Auckland.</p> <p>This person travelled extensively through Northland, from 2 October before returning to Auckland. A public health investigation continues in order to confirm any close contacts and locations of interest.</p> <p>Low vaccination rates in the region mean that we cannot be confident of keeping the virus contained. Out of an abundance of caution and to keep people safe, Northland will move to Alert Level 3 from 11:59pm tonight (Friday, 8 October) until at least 11:59pm Tuesday 12 October.</p> <p>Extensive contact tracing and wastewater testing will take place.</p>	Min Hipkins stand up 8 October

Northland Alert level 3 will be reviewed on Monday 11 October.

Not in scope

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

4 pages withheld as not in scope

COVID-19 FAQs

8 October 2021

Unite
against
COVID-19

Alert Levels and General Information

This contains the most up-to-date and approved messaging on key COVID-19 matters.

Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This document answers frequently asked questions about what **Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 2** means for New Zealand.

This information applies from **8.00pm, 8 October 2021.**

Information can be used for any government, agency, local government or relevant sector and business communications.

This is a living document that will be updated frequently. Information that changes or is added between versions will be highlighted. New sections and changes to messages are in **yellow.**

Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

Contents

<u>Northland Alert Level status</u>	<u>2</u>
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Not in scope

Northland Alert Level status

At 11.59pm tonight, Friday 8 October, Northland will move to Alert Level 3, after a case was identified in region. The case reported last night, who recently travelled to Northland from Auckland. They have been transferred to a quarantine facility in Auckland.

This person travelled through Northland, from the 2 October before returning to Auckland. Health officials are tracking down close contacts and locations of interest.

This will be strict Alert Level 3. As with Waikato, the easing steps that were announced for Auckland this week do not apply.

The Auckland boundary will stay in place.

The Level 3 restrictions for Northland will be reviewed on Monday, 11 October.

Q. What should Northland residents do?

Level 3 requires people to stay home, including working and learning from home if they can. Stay local, wear a face covering when leaving home and keep 2 meters distance from people outside of your bubble.

If you develop symptoms, even if mild, get tested. A list of testing stations is available on the [Healthpoint website](#).

Get vaccinated. Vaccination is the best tool that we have to provide everyone with their individual armour against COVID-19 and reduce the need for prolonged lockdowns in the future. Vaccination centres are listed on the [Healthpoint website](#).

Q. Why is only Northland being placed into Alert Level 3 rather than putting the whole of the North Island in Alert Level 3?

At the start of this outbreak vaccination numbers were still low, and so we acted hard and fast to put the whole country into lockdown. But with increasing numbers of people vaccinated, the public health advice is that we can extend the boundary safely and avoid putting the whole of the North Island into lockdown.

We need people to keep getting vaccinated and test when they have symptoms. Not just in the Alert Level 3 areas, including Auckland, Northland, and parts of the Waikato, but across the whole of New Zealand. It is the best way to avoid future lockdowns.

Q. What travel restrictions will be place?

Travel out and in of the area by road and air also restricted. People will only be able to travel for limited permitted reasons, and will need to carry evidence of they you are travelling. Police will be patrolling. People should stay home.

Q. What are the locations of interest?

The first locations of interest for Northland have been added to the [Ministry of Health website](#).

They are the BP Connect Wylies petrol station at 49 Maunu Road, Woodhill, Whangarei from 11.20pm on 2 October to 12.20am 3 October. And the Z Kensington service station, corner of Kamo Road and Nixon Street, Whangarei from 3.45pm-4.45pm on 4 October.

Locations of interest are added to the Ministry's website as quickly as possible. People to check these regularly, especially if you have visited, or live in Auckland, Waikato or Northland.

Not in scope

20 pages withheld as not in scope

COVID-19 Message Grid

11 October 2021

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Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This version was current at 18/05/2022 11:54 AM

In this edition:

Unite Against COVID-191

Not in scope

Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Not in scope			

Not in scope

Northland alert level	Northland remains at Alert Level 3	Northland will remain at Alert Level 3 until at least 11:59pm on Thursday, 14 October.	Post-cab KMs, 11 Oct
		<p>Cabinet will review these settings again on Wednesday, 13 October.</p> <p>The case who travelled around Northland while infectious remains uncooperative. Their travelling companion has been identified but not located.</p> <p>Northland has not had any new cases emerge from the 2,179 tests taken since the case emerged on Friday.</p> <p>Only 1.1 per cent of the region have had a test over the last 48 hours. This needs to be much higher to be certain that there aren't undetected cases.</p> <p>This is important given the low rates of vaccination in Northland. The two most important things people in Northland can do to return to Level 2 is get tested and get vaccinated.</p> <p>People in Northland should continue to stay at home, wear a face covering when they do need to leave the house, and keep their distance from people outside their household bubble and get vaccinated.</p>	

Not in scope

7 pages withheld as not in scope

COVID-19 FAQs

11 October 2021



Alert Levels and General Information

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This document answers frequently asked questions about what **Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 2** means for New Zealand.

This information applies from **5.00pm, 11 October 2021.**

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Contents

Northland Alert Level status 2

Not in scope

Not in scope

Northland Alert Level status

On Friday 8 October, Northland moved to Alert Level 3, after a case was identified who had been in the region. The case, who travelled to Northland from Auckland, has been transferred to a quarantine facility in Auckland.

This person travelled through Northland, from the 2 October before returning to Auckland. Health officials are tracking down close contacts and locations of interest.

As with Waikato, the easing steps that were announced for Auckland this week do not apply in Northland.

The Auckland boundary will stay in place.

The Level 3 restrictions for Northland will be reviewed on Wednesday 13 October.

Q. What should Northland residents do?

Level 3 requires people to stay home, including working and learning from home if they can. Stay local, wear a face covering when leaving home and keep 2 meters distance from people outside of your bubble.

If you develop symptoms, even if mild, get tested. A list of testing stations is available on the [Healthpoint website](#).

Get vaccinated. Vaccination is the best tool that we have to provide everyone with their individual armour against COVID-19 and reduce the need for prolonged lockdown in the future. Vaccination centres are listed on the [Healthpoint website](#).

Q. Why is only Northland being placed into Alert Level 3 rather than putting the whole of the North Island in Alert Level 3?

At the start of this outbreak vaccination numbers were still low, and so we acted hard and fast to put the whole country into lockdown. But with increasing numbers of people vaccinated, the public health advice is that we can extend the boundary safely and avoid putting the whole of the North Island into lockdown.

We need people to keep getting vaccinated and test when they have symptoms. Not just in the Alert Level 3 areas, including Auckland, Northland, and parts of the Waikato, but across the whole of New Zealand. It is the best way to avoid future lockdowns.

Q. What travel restrictions will be placed?

Travel in and out of the area by road or air is restricted. People will only be able to travel for limited permitted reasons and will need to carry evidence of they you are travelling. Police will be patrolling. People should stay home.

Q. What are the locations of interest?

The locations of interest for Northland have been added to the [Ministry of Health website](#).

Q. Where are the testing centres and placed for people to get vaccinated in Northland?

There are five testing sites available across the region:

Whangarei – Rock and Roll car park, Pohe Island (9am–4pm); Kamo, 20 Winger Crescent (9am–4pm)

Dargaville – Dargaville Hospital (9am–4pm)

Kerikeri – 1 Sammaree Place (9am–4pm)

Kaitiāia – Kaitiāia Hospital, 29 Redan Road (9am–4pm)

Northland DHB, local iwi and providers are also working hard to ensure as many Northlanders are vaccinated as possible.

Four clinics are open for vaccinations at Kaitaia, Whangarei, Dargaville, and Kerikeri.

Kaitaia – The Old Warehouse Building, 11 Matthews Ave (10am-5pm)

Whangarei – Northland Events Centre (10am-5pm)

Dargaville - 22a Normanby St (11am-6pm)

Kerikeri – 1 Sammaree Place (9am-4pm)

COVID-19 cases in the community

Q. What do we know about the woman who travelled with a companion to Northland from Auckland with COVID-19?

Whole genome sequencing for the Auckland case who travelled to Northland has been completed on the initial sample, confirming the case is linked to the Auckland outbreak.

Due to sample quality limitations, whole genome sequencing could not link the case to a specific cluster, however resampling has been undertaken and ESR are working to improve the data quality of additional sequencing.

The case remains in an Auckland quarantine facility.

A second person who is thought to have travelled with this case has been contacted but not yet located.

The case was under investigation after returning a weak positive result from a test in Whangarei earlier this week and on Friday returned a positive test result in Auckland.

Public health staff continue to work closely with the person to determine any locations of interest or exposure events associated with the case. There are currently 21 close contacts associated with this case. The household of the case and travel companion are included in this number.

Q. Is it correct the second woman from Northland is sheltering at a far north marae?

Police are working very hard to locate the second woman. The suggestion that she is in the far north is inconsistent with the information they have.

Not in scope

16 pages withheld as not in scope

COVID-19 Message Grid

12 October 2021

This contains the most up-to-date and approved messaging on key COVID-19 matters.

Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This version was current at 18/05/2022 11:55 AM

In this edition:

Unite Against COVID-19 below1

Not in scope

Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Not in scope			

Not in scope



Northland case companion

Companion of Northland case tests positive

The travelling companion of the Northland case was located by Police in West Auckland last night. They have tested positive for COVID-19 and been transferred to a MIQ facility.

The person is being interviewed by contact tracers and any new locations of interest will be posted on the Ministry of Health website as they become available.

18 contacts have been identified as associated with the first Northland case. Contact tracers have made contact with 17 of these individuals, one of whom is the travelling companion and four who are household contacts – all are isolating. The remaining contact is being actively followed up by contact tracers and will be advised to get a test.

Of the 18 contacts identified, nine are in Northland, seven are in Auckland, one is in Wellington, and one is still to be determined.

Northland DHB has stepped up testing and screening at Northland hospitals for visitors and patients. Anyone with symptoms should get tested.

MoH PR, 12 Oct

4 pages withheld as not in scope

Not in scope

Northland alert level

Northland remains at Alert Level 3

Northland will remain at Alert Level 3 until at least 11:59pm on Thursday, 14 October.

Post-cab
KMs, 11
Oct

Cabinet will review these settings again on Wednesday, 13 October.

The case who travelled around Northland while infectious remains uncooperative. Their travelling companion has been identified but not located.

Northland has not had any new cases emerge from the 2,179 tests taken since the case emerged on Friday.

Only 1.1 per cent of the region have had a test over the last 48 hours. This needs to be much higher to be certain that there aren't undetected cases.

This is important given the low rates of vaccination in Northland. The two most important things people in Northland can do to return to Level 2 is get tested and get vaccinated.

People in Northland should continue to stay at home, wear a face covering when they do need to leave the house, and keep their distance from people outside their household bubble and get vaccinated.

Not in scope

5 pages withheld as not in scope

COVID-19 FAQs

13 October 2021



Alert Levels and General Information

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Contents

Not in scope

Northland Alert Level status 2

Not in scope

Not in scope

Northland Alert Level status

Q. Why does Northland need to stay at Alert level 3?

The ongoing lack of information on the movements of two women with COVID in Northland means that the region needs to remain at Alert Level 3 for a further five days.

Q. What do we know about the first two cases who visited Northland from Auckland?

Officials have pieced together the two women's movements from CCTV footage and other means of police investigation, but this is not necessarily telling the whole story of their travels.

Both people are in a MIQ facility while they recover and public health interviews with the two people continue.

Q. Are there other positive cases in Northland or known contacts of the first two?

18 contacts have been identified as associated with the first Northland case. Contact tracers have contacted 17 of these individuals, one of whom is the travelling companion and four who are household contacts. All 17 of these individuals have been tested and results were negative.

Of the 18 contacts identified, nine are in Northland, eight are in Auckland, one is in Wellington.

The travelling companion of the first Northland case, who was located by Police in West Auckland on Monday 11 October and tested positive for COVID-19, was transferred to an MIQ facility.

This person is being interviewed and any new locations of interest in Auckland and Northland will be posted on the Ministry of Health website as they become available

There is also a truck driver who travelled to Northland from Auckland who has tested positive for COVID-19. His travel is not considered high risk as most of his deliveries were to businesses that are closed due to Alert Level 3 restrictions.

Not in scope

Not in scope



Q Who should go for testing and where is testing available?

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, please go and get tested. Testing is recommended for anyone who has been in a location of interest, whether they're symptomatic or not, and anyone who may have had interaction with the two travellers from Auckland while they were in Northland.

<https://www.northlanddhb.org.nz/home/covid-19/covid-19-northland-hub/northland-community-testing-centres/>

9 pages withheld as not in scope

COVID-19 Message Grid

13 October 2021

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This version was current at 18/05/2022 11:55 AM

In this edition:

Unite Against COVID-191

Not in scope

Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Not in scope			

Not in scope



Alert Levels update

Waikato and Northland to remain at Alert Level 3 for a further 5 days

The emergence of two cases in Hamilton currently unlinked to the Waikato cluster and ongoing lack of information on the movements of two women with COVID-19 in Northland means both regions will remain in Alert Level 3 until 11.59pm Monday 18 October.

Cabinet will review the settings for all areas in Alert Level 3 (including Auckland) on Monday the 18th of October.

Auckland remains in Alert Level 3, Step 1.

Min Hipkins standup, 13 Oct

Not in scope



2 pages withheld a not in scope



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

<p>Northland case companion</p>	<p>Companion of Northland case tests positive</p>	<p>The travelling companion of the Northland case was located by Police in West Auckland last night. They have tested positive for COVID-19 and been transferred to a MIQ facility.</p> <p>The person is being interviewed by contact tracers and any new locations of interest will be posted on the Ministry of Health website as they become available.</p> <p>18 contacts have been identified as associated with the first Northland case. Contact tracers have made contact with 17 of these individuals, one of whom is the travelling companion and four who are household contacts – all are isolating. The remaining contact is being actively followed up by contact tracers and will be advised to get a test.</p> <p>Of the 18 contacts identified, nine are in Northland, seven are in Auckland, one is in Wellington, and one is still to be determined.</p> <p>Northland DHB has stepped up testing and screening at Northland hospitals for visitors and patients. Anyone with symptoms should get tested.</p>	<p>MoH PR, 12 Oct</p>
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6 pages withheld as not in scope

Not in scope

From: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 October 2021 3:31 pm
To: COVID-IMT Response Manager <COVID_IMT_ResponseMgr@health.govt.nz>
Subject: Persons of Interest attending a Funeral in Paihia

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon,

I have received a request for information from one of the Northland Mayors.

He was approached by TV3 about one of the Persons of Interest and that they were apparently at a funeral in Paihia.

Are you able to shed any light on this?

Ngā mihi

Aaron Wright

System Response Manager | COVID-19 Group

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Te Tari o Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti
Matua

s9(2)(a)

aaron.wright@dpmc.govt.nz



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Not in scope

From: Debbie Sinclair-Paton <Debbie.Sinclair-Paton@health.govt.nz> **On Behalf Of** COVID-IMT Response Manager
Sent: Thursday, 14 October 2021 6:59 am
To: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: COVID-IMT Response Manager <COVID_IMT_ResponseMgr@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Covid breach in Kerikeri

Morena Aaron

Thankyou for the detail, this has been provided to the ARPHS team who are working with both ladies on deteminig locations of interest and to Vicki Blake who will manage the compliance aspect

Nga mihi

Debbie

From: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 October 2021 6:28 am
To: COVID-IMT Response Manager <COVID_IMT_ResponseMgr@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Covid breach in Kerikeri

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Request tha the below is lodged with the appropriate departments and advise of action if required.

Ngā mihi

Aaron Wright
System Response Manager | COVID-19 Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Te Tari o Te Pirimia Me Te
Komiti Matua

s9(2)(a)

aaron.wright@dpmc.govt.nz



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From: Hon John Carter QSO <John.Carter@fndc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 October 2021 6:24 am
To: Nick Chamberlain (NDHB) <Nick.Chamberlain@northlanddhb.org.nz>
Cc: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>; Eru Lyndon <Eru.Lyndon001@msd.govt.nz>; Justine Smith (<Justine.Smith@dia.govt.nz> <Justine.Smith@dia.govt.nz>); Murray Northland Inc <murray.reade@northlandnz.com>; HILL, Anthony (Tony) <Anthony.Hill@police.govt.nz>; Christopher McLellan <christopher.mclellan@police.govt.nz>; Sheryl Mai <mayor@wdc.govt.nz>; ^EXT: Penny Smart <Pennys@nrc.govt.nz>; Jason.Smith@kaipara.govt.nz; Ann Court <Ann.Court@fndc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Covid breach in Kerikeri

Thanks Nick

It maybe that it's not as stated of course

Cheers J C

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nick Chamberlain (NDHB) <Nick.Chamberlain@northlanddhb.org.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:41:12 PM
To: Hon John Carter QSO <John.Carter@fndc.govt.nz>
Cc: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>; Eru Lyndon <Eru.Lyndon001@msd.govt.nz>; Justine Smith (<Justine.Smith@dia.govt.nz> <Justine.Smith@dia.govt.nz>); Murray Northland Inc <murray.reade@northlandnz.com>; HILL, Anthony (Tony) <Anthony.Hill@police.govt.nz>; Christopher McLellan <christopher.mclellan@police.govt.nz>; Sheryl Mai <mayor@wdc.govt.nz>; Penny Smart <pennys@nrc.govt.nz>; Jason.Smith@kaipara.govt.nz <Jason.Smith@kaipara.govt.nz>; Ann Court <Ann.Court@fndc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Covid breach in Kerikeri

CAUTION: This email originated from outside Far North District Council.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Kia Ora John, I'll pass this on immediately. Neither I nor my team have heard anything about this that I'm aware of. All of the contact tracing is being led from Auckland (ARPHS) because they are Aucklanders and they have been doing all the investigation/ interrogation of the two women.

There is a possibility that it's been reported investigated and the workplace contacted and has turned out not to be a Location of Interest. I can't understand how with the reporting that's been done, this hasn't been identified as a location of interest and the appropriate measures taken immediately.

Nga Mihi
Nick Chamberlain

On 13/10/2021, at 7:56 PM, Hon John Carter QSO <John.Carter@fndc.govt.nz> wrote:

BE CYBER SMART - This email is from an external sender - **Please do not click links or open attachments from unknown sources** - Forward suspicious emails to scam@healthalliance.co.nz

Good evening all

I have just talked to and been sent the email below.

The author has asked that they not be named so I have taken their details out.

Can you please advise how we get this addressed.

Ta J C

<[image001.png](#)> **Hon John Carter QSO**
Mayor
Far North District Council
09 401 5200 or **24-hour Contact Centre** 0800 920 029 | John.Carter@fndc.govt.nz
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Careers](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside Far North District Council.
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Hello John

Thank you to s9(2) and yourself for understanding the urgency of this matter.
()

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

So there was a discussion going on at s9(2)(a) about the 2 Aucklanders breaching the border with false documentation.

s9(2)(a) then said, "Those 2 ladies came in here this week Tuesday s9(2)(a)

The Women said they came up from Auckland."

s9(2)(a)

So basically I thought about it and reported it to the Covid Breach Email on Saturday then called the Healthcare Line on Sunday and told them what happened, she thanked me and said that this is very concerning and will go through the necessary steps to report this.

It is nearly Thursday and nothing has happened. It isn't on new places of interest.

The Kerikeri people are at risk here and the customers from s9(2)(a)

I would like to remain Anonymous and so hope this will be sorted.

s9(2)(a) Kerikeri Rd Kerikeri

Many thanks

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Far North District Council | Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau Ki Te Raki
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Address. Memorial Avenue, Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440, New Zealand

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Not in scope

From: Ella Jones [DPMC] <Ella.Jones@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 3 December 2021 4:56 pm
To: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>
Cc: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information [UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Nadine,

Yes this the final documentation on this. For context, DPMC was asked to provide the timeline compiling agency information on this matter into a single view. There was no further work undertaken by DPMC once this was sent. Agencies will be best placed for anything further in relation to this.

Thank you very much – and hope you have a great weekend
Ella

From: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 2 December 2021 2:26 pm
To: Ella Jones [DPMC] <Ella.Jones@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Ella.

Is this the final report/documentation on this matter, and have you been asked any questions in relation to this subject – for example we may refer our questions to you if you are the holder of the information? Currently we are referring requestors to the fact that we are waiting on the report from Police/MoH.

Happy to discuss

Nadine

Nadine Kilmister - Director, Office of the Chief Executive
s9(2)(a)

www.msd.govt.nz

Ministry of Social Development, 7.3.26 Level 7, The Aurora Centre, 56-66 The Terrace,
PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140

Please contact my EA, Erin Hole Erin.Hole001@msd.govt.nz if you need a meeting with me.

Check out the work of the OCE team here: <https://doogle.ssi.govt.nz/business->

[groups/office-of-the-chief-executive/index.html](https://www.msd.govt.nz/business-groups/office-of-the-chief-executive/index.html)

MSD Purpose:

We help New Zealanders be safe, strong and independent
Manaaki Tangata, Manaaki Whānau

From: Ella Jones [DPMC] <Ella.Jones@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 December 2021 2:50 PM
To: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>
Cc: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information [UNCLASSIFIED]

My apologies Nadine. The word document provides a table of information which correlate to the visio timeline

Thank you
Ella

From: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 December 2021 2:47 pm
To: Ella Jones [DPMC] <Ella.Jones@dpmc.govt.nz>
Cc: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information [UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Ella – is there a final report? Or just this document – seems to be referred to a table as well?

Nadine

Nadine Kilmister Director, Office of the Chief Executive
s9(2)(a)

www.msd.govt.nz

Ministry of Social Development, 7.3.26 Level 7, The Aurora Centre, 56-66 The Terrace,
PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140

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MSD Purpose:

We help New Zealanders be safe, strong and independent
Manaaki Tangata, Manaaki Whānau

From: Ella Jones [DPMC] <Ella.Jones@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 December 2021 2:32 PM
To: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>
Cc: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information [UNCLASSIFIED]

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Hi Nadine,

Please find attached the final material that was compiled from DPMC on the below request.

Regards,
Ella

From: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 December 2021 1:57 pm
To: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>; Ella Jones [DPMC] <Ella.Jones@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information [UNCLASSIFIED]

Nadine, my sincere apologies I thought that this had been closed off.

Ella, can you please forward the A3 on this to Nadine please (email above).

AW

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>
Date: Wednesday 01 Dec 2021, 1:53 PM
To: Aaron Wright [DPMC] <Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information

Afternoon Aaron

How are you going on this?

Nadine

Nadine Kilmister - Director, Office of the Chief Executive
s9(2)(a)

www.msd.govt.nz

Ministry of Social Development, 7.3.26 Level 7, The Aurora Centre, 56-66 The Terrace,
PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140

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MSD Purpose:

We help New Zealanders be safe, strong and independent
Manaaki Tangata, Manaaki Whānau

From: TAYLOR, Barry <Barry.Taylor@police.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 26 November 2021 8:53 AM
To: Shona Meyrick <Shona.Meyrick@health.govt.nz>; Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>; COVID-IMT Response Manager <COVID_IMT_ResponseMgr@health.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information

Already done and forwarded direct to Aaron Wright.

BRT.

From: Shona Meyrick <Shona.Meyrick@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 26 November 2021 8:36 AM
To: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>; TAYLOR, Barry <Barry.Taylor@police.govt.nz>; COVID-IMT Response Manager <COVID_IMT_ResponseMgr@health.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ministerial Request for Information

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Nadine

Just cc'ing our IMT response team as think they are your point of contact at MoH for this.

Thanks
Shona

From: Nadine Kilmister <Nadine.Kilmister002@msd.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 25 November 2021 2:47 pm
To: Barry Taylor <Barry.Taylor@police.govt.nz>; Shona Meyrick <Shona.Meyrick@health.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Ministerial Request for Information

Hi Barry and Shona

Hope you are well – we are continuing to get WPQ requests about the police/MOH report into this matter – has this progressed?

Nadine

Nadine Kilmister - Director, Office of the Chief Executive

s9(2)(a)

www.msd.govt.nz

Ministry of Social Development, 7.3.26 Level 7, The Aurora Centre, 56-66 The Terrace, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140

Please contact my EA, Erin Hole Erin.Hole001@msd.govt.nz if you need a meeting with me.

Check out the work of the OCE team here: <https://doogle.ssi.govt.nz/business-groups/office-of-the-chief-executive/index.html>

MSD Purpose:

We help New Zealanders be safe, strong and independent
Manaaki Tangata, Manaaki Whānau

From: "Aaron Wright [DPMC]"
<Aaron.Wright@dpmc.govt.nz>
Date: 13 October 2021 at 5:42:12 PM NZDT
To: COVID-IMT Response Manager
<COVID_IMT_ResponseMgr@health.govt.nz>, Shona Meyrick <>, Chris Scahill <Chris.Scahill2@mbie.govt.nz>, Jess Nichols <Jesse.Nichols005@msd.govt.nz>, "TAYLOR, Barry" <Barry.Taylor@police.govt.nz>
Cc: "Cheryl Barnes [DPMC]"
<Cheryl.Barnes@dpmc.govt.nz>, Erin Sampson <Erin.Sampson@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Ministerial Request for Information

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Good Evening all. Apologies in advance for the timing of this. I seek your help.

A short notice request has been placed with DPMC to assemble the available information from all agencies who may hold anything on the travellers (Persons of Interest) in Northland that has driven the response

there.

I have a requirement to provide an assembled product that coherently lays out what we knew, when we knew it and what actions were taken in a singular format not later than 1100 tomorrow (Thursday).

Accordingly I request your agency support in providing what you are able to me not later than 0900 tomorrow (Thursday morning) to give me a short time to produce the final product which is intended to be shared with on an "In-Confidence" basis Ministers with Powers to Act (including PM and DPM).

If there is information that is not able to be shared, I request that the rationale for this be stated. It is possible that in this event, CE will be contacted by Ministerial Staff to verify this.

Please call me on the number below if any issues.

Ngā mihi

Aaron Wright
System Response Manager | COVID-19 Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – Te Tari
o Te Piriāia Me Te Komiti Matua

s9(2)(a)

aaron.wright@dpmc.govt.nz

<image001.png>

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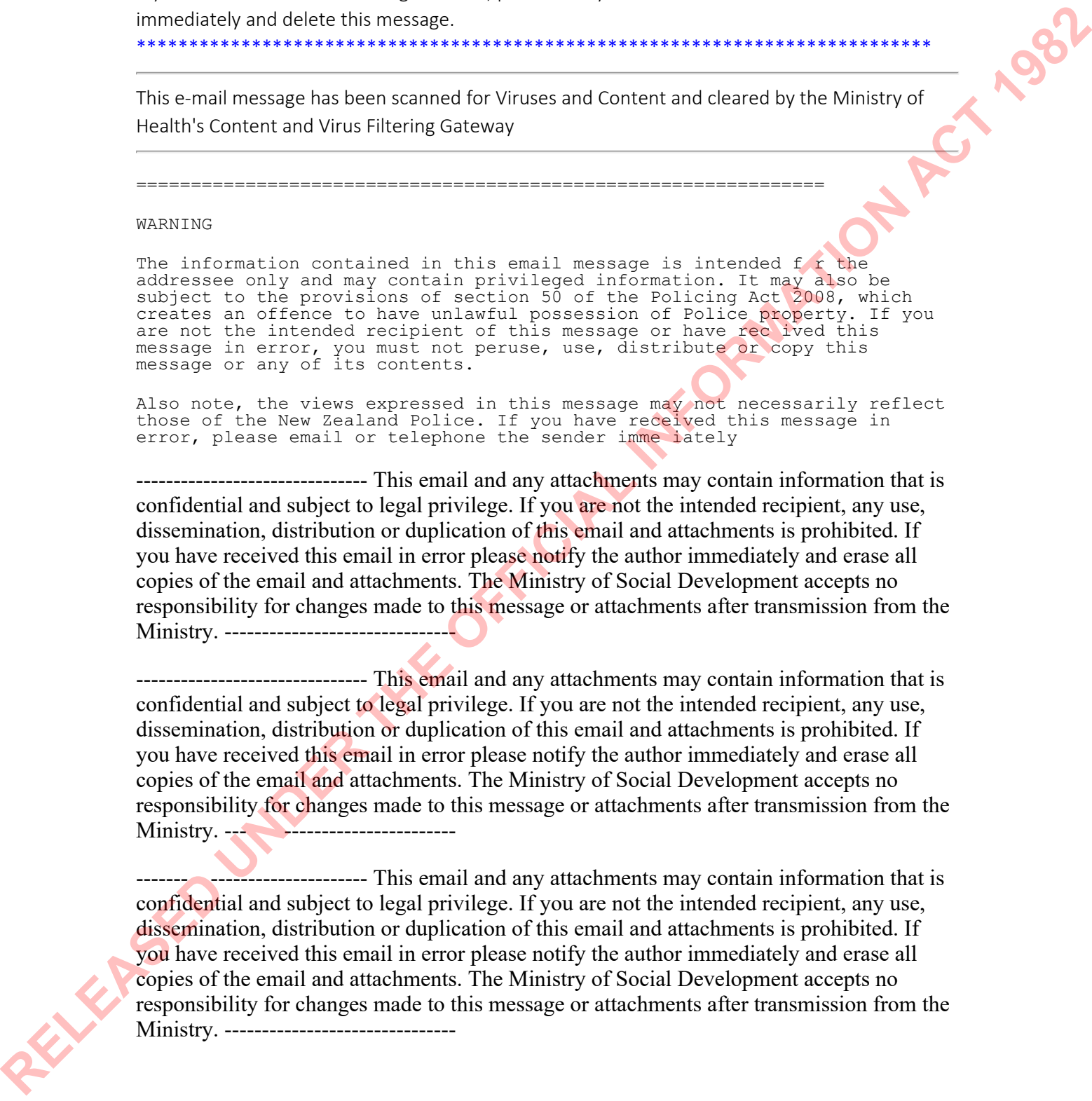
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Northland Case of interest table timeline

Timeline Ref #	Date	Time	Agency	Details
1	29 Sept 21	0058hr	MBIE	Case 1 applied for first Business Travel Register (BTR) application received under Building and Construction exemption, citing removal of asbestos services. Category manually processed by MBIE.
2	30 Sept 21	1008hr	MBIE	Application declined by MBIE on basis it did not meet the criteria
3	01 Oct 21	0203hr	MBIE	Case 1 applied for second BTR application submitted under the Social Services category, requiring a case by case assessment from MSD. BTR was approved same day by MSD and converted to a Business Travel Document (BTD).
4		0203hr	MSD	BTD application was assigned to MSD under Social and community-based services provided to support persons to maintain critical well-being or as crisis support for people who are unsafe or homeless.
5		0916 hr	MSD	Application was open and mistakenly approved. Applicant and 3 others issued travel documentation through system generation.
6	02 Oct 21		Health	Case 1 and Case 2 travelled to Northland together. Case 1 obtained permission as a recruitment agent Case 2 Travelled with Case 1 to Northland. Is Unemployed, reports being car sick on trip.
7		1330hr	Police	ANPR scanned Case 1's vehicle travelling North of Auckland.
8		1641hr	MBIE	BTD for one individual scanned by Police.
9		1641hr	Police	BTD scanning for Case 1, leaving Auckland. Scanned twice. ANPR scan of Case 1's vehicle at Northern Border SH1.
10		1726hr	Police	ANPR camera activated by Case 3 vehicle, presumed Northbound.
11		1737hr	Police	ANPR activated at Oakleigh for Case 1's vehicle.
12		>1900hr	Police	Case 1 and Case 2 check in to Comfort Hotel Whangarei.
13			Health	Case 2 tested ahead of planned return to Auckland- Tested negative.
14	03 Oct 21		Health	Case 1 and Case 2 attended an AA centre for Case 2 to update license. Registered as a location of interest (LOI).
15	03 – 05 Oct 21		Police	CCTV places Case 3's vehicle in Kerikeri.
16	04 Oct 21		Health	Case 1 tested to meet requirements of return travel- weak positive result. Case 2 developed a cough and further symptoms. Case 1 and Case 2 travelled separately.
17	05 Oct 21	1315hr	MSD	Following Police queries, application was flagged with MSD by MBIE to be checked.
18		1326	MSD	MSD staff member reopened the request, reviewed and declined it. The approval was revoked for all cases included in the original application. MSD notified MBIE it has been approved in error.
19		1329hr	MBIE	Following concerns by Police the BTD was revoked within 30 mins of notification. Details of the individuals and identities of three others who applied under same request were supplied to Police to assist investigation and tracking of individuals.
20	06 Oct 21		Police	Telco data – Case 1 organised Uber through an individual. On arrival at Case 2's address, Case 1 travelled to Lynmall. Both individuals who ordered Uber and Uber driver are potential close contacts and being investigated by ARPHS.

21			Health	Case 1: Returns to Auckland.	
22		2045hr	MBIE	A revoked BTM for one individual was scanned by Police.	
23		2140hr	Police	Case 1 vehicle triggers Northern Gateway ANPR heading south into Auckland.	
24	07 Oct 21	1614hr	Health	NZ Police email communication to the Northland IMT Controller with information to assist with Lol of travellers.	
25	08 Oct 21	1123hr	Health	Offer by MoH Compliance to retrieve bank account details. Northland do not see need for this, have spoken to Police who have intel that is sensitive.	
26		1152hr	Health	Media statement released. If you were in Whangarei, Paihia or Kawakawa between 02-06 October may have been at LOI Testing stations open throughout weekend.	
27		1241hr	Health	Conversations to discuss releasing names to parties of local iwi and Pacifica links to engage with networks at LOIs	
28		1305hr	Health	Query received from RNZ in relation to travel exemption status. Provided it was a business exemption and redirected to MBIE.	
29		1443hr	Health	Northland testing numbers requested	
30		1455hr	Health	Key risks identified ahead of the PHRA at 1500 were shared with the iwi representative at NDHB. Many unknowns and precautionary approach taken.	
31		~1800hr	MSD	MSD made aware by MBIE that case reported in the media was an MSD application in BTR.	
32		2131hr	Police	ANPR detects Case 3's vehicle on SH1 Mangawai Southbound, crossing into Auckland. BTM scan for Case 3.	
33			2133hr	MBIE	A revoked BTM for a different individual was scanned by Police.
34		09 Oct 21	1000hr	MSD	MSD informed by MBIE that case identified was the correct case.
35	1145hr		Health	CE MBIE emailed DG Health travel documents. Send on to MoH Compliance.	
36	11 Oct 21		MSD	MSD implemented a double check system whereby two staff are across decisions on each application.	
37		0944hr	Health	Northland daily SitRep received.	
38		0945hr	Health	Email on number of swabs processed and testing results. References in update to Ministers.	
39		1013hr	Health	Signal request from Ministers Office on vaccination numbers and website bookings was actioned with team.	
40	12 Oct 21	1132hr	Health	Media statement released.	
41		1246hr	Health	Location of testing sites provided to Ministers office, following request at 1130 meeting.	
42		1531hr	Health	Request from Northland Mayor received. Had been approached by TV3 that a Person of Interest had been at a funeral in Pahia. Confirmed 3 Tangis in far north in last 2 weeks. Attendance investigated by ARPHS.	
43	13 Oct 21	1036hr	Health	Request for high level timeline from Charlotte Gendal. Provided information on Case 1 and Case 2 (details have been included in timeline)	



Business Travel Document

Document number: s9(2)(a)

Name: s9(2)(a)

Business name	s9(2)(b)(ii)
Travel category	Social Services
Travel type	Multiple business trips
Cordon/s	Waikato, Auckland, Northland
Purpose of travel	Social and community based services provided to support persons to maintain critical well being or as crisis support for people who are unsafe or homeless
Relevant Health Order/s	COVID 19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 12) 2021
Date valid	This order comes into force at 11.59 pm on 21 September 2021.

Standard conditions

- You must carry evidence that you have had a COVID-19 test within the last 7 days (unless you are an exempt service), or an appropriate medical certificate issued within the last 7 days
- You must wear a facemask if you are in a public-facing environment, including public transport, or businesses open to the public
- You should take the following measures to manage COVID-19 transmission risks
 - Record your movements, including the places you are working, to support contact tracing
 - Ensure you maintain physical distancing as far as possible
 - Wash your hands, and other basic hygiene measures
 - Stay home if you're sick
- You must carry a driver's licence, passport or 18+ card, or other proof of identity
- You may only travel for the purpose stated on this document, if you need to travel for other reasons, you or your employer will need to make another request
- This document may not be used by anyone other than the named person
- Crossing the alert level boundary for a purpose other than those stated in the COVID-19 Public Health Response Order is an offence, and subject to the penalties set out in the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020
- This B/D is based on current public health settings and can be cancelled at any time if the health settings change (i.e. if a new COVID-19 Response Order is issued)

Request specific conditions

Travel specific conditions

Workers must carry evidence of the purpose of their travel and the location of their destination



Business Travel Document

Document number: s9(2)(a)

Name: s9(2)(a)

Business name	s9(2)(b)(ii)
Travel category	Social Services
Travel type	Multiple business trips
Cordon/s	Waikato, Auckland, Northland
Purpose of travel	Social and community based services provided to support persons to maintain critical well being or as crisis support for people who are unsafe or homeless
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Travel category	Social Services
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Business Travel Document

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Request specific conditions

Travel specific conditions

Workers must carry evidence of the purpose of their travel and the location of their destination



All Of Government

s9(2)(a)



MT

+ New

Business Travel Document s9(2)(a)

NOT APPROVED

Actions ▾



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Nothing but space

✓ APPLICATION

✓ PROCESS REQUEST

✓ DECLINED

✓ RESOLVED

Completed sections

Business details

Name

s9(2)(b)(ii)

NZBN

s9(2)(b)(ii)

Request contact

s9(2)(a)



✓ **Travel category**

Primary business activity

Social Services

What is the secondary activity of your business or organisation?

Social and community based services provided to support persons to maintain critical well-being or as crisis support for people who are unsafe or homeless

Travel purpose

business is structured closely in the employment services to assist our critical, vulnerable and disabled community, that cannot find work and improve their personal skills by providing access to regular social contact and stimulating activities. The services we also provide is to employ carers to provide critical everyday activities to support our vulnabile people whom feel unsafe and is homeless .

✓ **Travel type**

Type of journey/s

Transit

Single return

One-off, one-way travel into a higher Alert Level area

One-off, one-way travel into a lower Alert Level area

Multiple business trips

Worker commute

✓ **Regions/Alert Level Boundaries**

Northland

Auckland

Waikato

✓ **Worker details**

Auckland

First name

Last name

Type/s of journey

∨ **Declaration details**

First name:

s9(2)

()

Last name:

s9(2)(a)

Role/designation:

s9(2)(a)

I declare the information provided is true and correct and I understand the terms and conditions of this application.

∨ **Attached documents**

Supporting evidence



No attachments

∨ **Reopen history**

Action

Reopen Case

Comments

This request approval has been revoked as the travel to move between alert level areas for your business does not meet the threshold for an exemption, as it does not fall within a permitted travel category of the Alert Level Order, nor is the travel necessary nor desirable to promote the purposes of the Act, or the Alert Level Order. It is likely the travel can be reasonably delayed or undertaken by someone within the Alert Level area. The travel permission that is sought therefore does not merit the public health risk of travelling across the Alert Level boundary and your travel request has been declined.

Reopened by

s9(2)(a)

Reopened On

05 October 2021 01:27 PM

▼ Decline details

Declined on

05 October 2021 01:29 PM

Declined by

s9(2)(a)

Decline comments

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Regards
Ministry of Social Development

[Not relevant to your request]

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982