



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA



BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD



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



COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

17 June 2021

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1. Status Summary

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

Focus Area	Sub-Focus Area	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency	Agency Comment on Status
Vaccine and Immunisation Programme	Purchasing and approvals	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers anticipated.
	Population definition and sequencing	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers anticipated.
	Distribution and inventory management	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are scalability challenges to building a more flexible network which are being addressed via co-design with DHBs. Some improvements have already been made, but the area will remain at amber until the plan is finalised. The provider portal was released last week and will streamline distribution and ordering, provide greater visibility of vaccine supply throughout the country and enable scaling for Group 4. On 9 June the Government announced the development of a South Island hub and 17 new ultra-low temperature freezers which arrived in New Zealand on 27 May. The freezers are currently being tested and accredited, to be available for use from end of June.
	Health workforce	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of Tuesday 15 June 2021, 7,666 vaccinators have completed vaccine training nationally and 3,018 vaccinators have been active in the programme. There are scalability challenges with the health work force. Work continues to scale this workforce through implementation of improvements to the surge workforce database and developing and enabling a safe and appropriate additional workforce. These actions are on track to ensure sufficient vaccinators are available for anticipated peak demand during the general population rollout. Calls to cleanse the existing surge workforce database are ongoing, with details of all people who confirm they are still able to participate in rollout being migrated into new 'Hands Up' system for DHBs to access.
	Provider engagement	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pricing agreed. DHBs continue to deliver against the national plan, with cumulative performance of 107 percent to the week ending 13 June 2021. The Ministry is working with the sector to support the implementation of the planning blueprint for existing healthcare settings.
	Registration, appointment and immunisation	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressive onboarding of all DHBs to Book My Vaccine (National Booking System) is anticipated to be completed by 30 June, with five DHBs expected to be onboarded this week. Rollout of the NIBS DHB by DHBs is a significant exercise and the amber rating reflects the criticality of this rollout to Programme success and the tight timeframes for this to take place. The rating will move to green once all DHBs are onboarded, which is expected by the end of June.
	Post event	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers anticipated.
Elimination Strategy	Keep it out	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers anticipated. Trans-Tasman and Cook Island QFT have gone live. Lessons are being learned about management of international incidents. Given the current situation in Australia the Ministry continues to work across government on managing NZ's response to these outbreaks.
	Prepare for it	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers are anticipated to the broader programme. Ongoing readiness planning and exercises are occurring, next health readiness work is across Lakes and Waikato DHBs. Risks related to the vaccine programme are outlined above.

Focus Area	Sub-Focus Area	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency	Agency Comment on Status
Elimination Strategy	Stamp it out	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce remains under pressure; work is ongoing with DHBs to support including capacity and capability review and development of a surge workforce.
	Manage the impact	●	●	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No barriers anticipated. Process for embedding, tracking and reporting on reviews, recommendations, learning and continuous improvement activities is being refined.

Focus Area	Sub-Focus Area	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency	Agency Comment on Status
MIQ Workforce	Vaccination of MIQ workers	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site access checks have reported no account of workers gaining access who do not meet the vaccination requirements. MIQ-issued vaccination certificates continue to be issued periodically as vaccination status data is being updated. An audit of vaccination evidence being presented on-site has shown that the vast majority of workers are using the DHB issued vaccination cards. There was one exception granted last week, on the 9 June 2021 at the Commodore hotel in Christchurch allowing an unvaccinated worker to repair the fridge. Due to issues with BWTR reporting this indicator has shifted to amber to reflect the limitations of BWTR information. Further information is included in the report.
	Staff testing	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance on site was reported as 90% for the week 7 June through to 13 June 2021 (same as the previous week). Compliance figures are still being impacted by the cyber-attack on Waikato DHB (affecting compliance results for the three Hamilton MIQ facilities). Compliance reporting for Hamilton facilities is down to an average of 17% (previously around 90%). If you remove the Hamilton data, then compliance reporting is at 96% for the rest of the country (in line with previous weeks, up from 94% in the previous week). We are working with MoH to improve alignment of reporting. MoH are currently finalising the mechanisms that will enable us to report the same data covering the same period. This indicator will remain amber while work is underway to resolve the ransomware attack.
	Saliva testing	-	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoH are introducing the option of saliva testing for frontline border workers who have to undergo regular testing. MoH will be leading a phased roll out, starting with a prototype to workers on a seven-day cycle in Canterbury with an estimated start date of late June/ early July 2021. 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. This indicator will remain amber while we learn from the prototype.

Focus Area	Sub-Focus Area	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency	Agency Comment on Status
Operations	Ventilation systems	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ventilation Working Group (VWG) have reviewed another report, bringing the total to 27 of 31 reports. Status remains amber as we assess implications on the MIQ system of delivering the remedial programme. No further meetings have been held since the last report, with the total meetings at 25 of 31 facilities. We have received a further two remediation proposals this week, bringing the total to 12 remediation proposals received. These are being reviewed. Next steps, leading to green, will be looking across the whole portfolio to schedule the remedial work whilst balancing room capacity.
	Renewing contracts	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bay Plaza management were advised on Friday 11 June 2021 of our intention to decommission their facility. They acknowledged that this information is embargoed and not to be shared with staff until we have finalised the decommissioning process and timeframes. 15 of 31 hotels have agreed to the extended terms of the agreement. We have issued execution copies of the contract to the Waipuna for signature and continue to hold discussions with the remaining hotels to agree adjustments to rates. This indicator will remain amber as we close out the terms with the remaining hotels.
	Reducing Transmission risk – Grand Mercure and Grand Millennium	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maintenance work is complete at both facilities. The final test results have been received for Grand Mercure. The test results have been reviewed by the independent HVAC engineer and MBIE staff to confirm that MIQ preferred conditions have been met. Reoccupation of the facility will be initiated this week with a flight scheduled to arrive on Saturday 19 June 2021. The Grand Millennium remains empty with no further returnees assigned to this hotel. We are still awaiting final test results which are due this week. If results are favourable, reoccupation will be initiated. This indicator will remain amber until the facilities are re-designated.
	Transition to cohorting	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from last week. Cohorting has been implemented with the majority of facilities having fully transitioned. On the 7 June 2021 there was an incident when cohorting was broken in Christchurch. There is further information on this incident included in the report. The implementation will continue to be monitored and a review completed during June 2021. We will report back on these findings when available. The indicator will remain amber until the review is complete.
	RSE workers	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It remains uncertain whether Industry will be able to consistently meet MIQ deadlines beyond the first flight on a 16-day arrival cycle. There is already a scheduling issue for the arrival of flight four, which has not been resolved by Industry. The process to secure a contract covering the additional MIQ costs is progressing but has not yet been finalised. This indicator will remain red until we have confidence the two points above have been resolved. Industry has verbally agreed that s9(2)(a) from Horticulture NZ will act as the single counterparty. They have nominated a third party as point of contact for payment of invoices. Issues at a regional level have been resolved now that the first arrivals have been confirmed. More information is included in the report.
	Fees collection / debt recovery	●	●	MBIE MIQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the initial two weeks (9 working days) of operation, the new invoicing platform has generated over 4,000 invoices with a value of over \$16m. These invoices are for the period 25 March 2021 through to mid-May 2021 and we are on track to be up to date by 30 June 2021. This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices. The Finance and Operations team are working together on the handover of weekly reporting functions this week.

Focus	Sub-Focus Area	Last Week	This Week	Agency	Agency Comment on Status
Quarantine Free Travel	Cook Islands quarantine-free travel (two way)	●	●	MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Zealand agencies continue to work at pace together and with Cook Islands officials to finalise operational SOPs for a managed return process from the Cook Islands and for the sheltering-in-place of New Zealanders in the Cook Islands. This will form the basis of a scenario-based planning workshop with the Cook Islands next week.• s6(a)• The Cook Islands received its first positive test result on 4 June, which was determined to be a historical case. s7(b)(ii) <p>he traveller was prosecuted and fined for a false declaration.</p>
	Niue quarantine-free travel (two-way)	●	●	MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Niue has confirmed its position that two-way QFT should not commence until sometime after its vaccination roll-out is complete, which commenced to the general population on 10 June (NZT). Officials are meeting this week to confirm next steps towards commencement, including a proposed timeline and the possibility of a technical mission to Niue.• The timing of the switch from 'amber' to 'green' will be able to be better assessed following these discussions.
	Trans-Tasman quarantine-free travel	●	●	MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In response to ongoing community cases of COVID-19 centred in the greater Melbourne area, the Government extended a pause on travel from Victoria to New Zealand until at least 11.59pm (NZT) on Thursday 17 June.• From 9 June, travellers have been able to return from Melbourne on 'green' flights if they meet eligibility criteria, have a negative pre-departure test, have completed travel and health declarations and have confirmed they have not visited a location of interest. Travellers are responsible for covering the costs of these flights and should speak directly to their airlines about arrangements. For the period 9 June – 15 June, 1966 passengers have arrived across twelve green flights from Melbourne.

Proactively Classified

2. COVID-19 Insights

2.1 Insights of Note

2.1.1 Snapshot of Iceland's COVID-19 Response

The Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group, have analysed Iceland's response to COVID-19. This is intended as a brief snapshot. Further information is available if required.

Context

Iceland has a population of approximately 341,000 people¹ and has had less than 7,000 cases of COVID-19 (approximately 1.9% of the population).^{2,3} This resulted in 29 deaths,^{4,5} the lowest rate of COVID-19 related deaths in Europe.⁶

Pandemic Response

Iceland reacted quickly to COVID-19, enacting the Icelandic Pandemic and Influenza Preparedness Plan (IPIPP), in January 2020 well before the first case was confirmed there on February 28 2020. The IPIPP sets out the roles each government department will undertake in responding to a pandemic.⁷

Pandemic response is led by the Ministry for Health, under which the Chief Epidemiologist operates, and the Ministry of Justice, under which the Civil Protection Department operates. The Civil Protection Department and the Chief Epidemiologist implement the pandemic response plan jointly.

The Health Security and Communicable Diseases Act grants the Chief Epidemiologist decision making authority, such as announcing lockdowns without the requirement to consult the Minister. Meanwhile the Civil Protection Department is responsible for managing the impact of the pandemic has on social infrastructure. Both departments are responsible for the organisation of education, training and dissemination of information for the purpose of clarifying the situation to the public.⁸

Iceland decided to implement a test and trace and isolate strategy, with the testing part of the plan carried out by the National University Hospital of Iceland, which subsequently ran out of testing capacity.⁹ Part of Iceland's subsequent strategy was to partner with locally based human genomics company deCODE, who were able to set up testing labs within five days¹⁰ and by 13 March 2020 were offering free screening to volunteers to enable the government to measure the spread of the virus.¹¹

DeCODE also carry out genomic sequencing of positive tests in Iceland, allowing them both the ability to identify new variants and the ability to trace the source of infections by following mutation patterns of the virus. The ability to track the source of infections is used by nurses and police officers as part of contact

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1. Accessed 15 June 2021

² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Population Prospects 2019, Online Edition. Rev. 1. Accessed 15 June 2021

³ Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

⁴ Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

⁵ Our World in Data. <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus-data?country=~ISL> Accessed 15th June 2021

⁶ Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

⁷ COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor

<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/iceland/livinghit.aspx?Section=5.%20Governance&Type=Chapter>. Accessed 15 June 2021

⁸ Iceland Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management. <https://www.almannavarnir.is/english/pandemic-influenza/pandemic-response-plan/>. Accessed 15 June 2021

⁹ Nature. How Iceland hammered COVID with science. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03284-3>. Accessed 15 June 2021

¹⁰ Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

¹¹ deCODE Genetics. <https://www.decode.com/iceland-provides-a-picture-of-the-early-spread-of-covid-19-in-a-population-with-a-cohesive-public-health-response/>. Accessed 15 June 2021

tracing efforts, and to show chains of infection from person to person.¹² Iceland has submitted genome sequences for 76.6% of its COVID-19 cases since 10 January 2020.¹³

Testing Regime

Iceland appears to primarily conduct PCR tests although the lateral flow based CLINITEST Rapid COVID-19 Antigen Test, produced by Siemens Healthineers, is also available at Keflavik airport for departing travellers.¹⁴ Testing data in Iceland is recorded as either diagnostic testing, border screening testing or quarantine and random screening. For the period between 7 to 14 June 2021, Iceland carried out a daily average of 353 diagnostic tests, 2,092 border screening tests, and 984 quarantine and random screening tests. As an example, test results reported for tests taken on the 13 June 2021, reported positive COVID-19 results in 0.25% of border testing and 0.28% positive results from quarantine and random screening tests.¹⁵ A low test positivity rate suggests that Iceland is testing enough people to have an adequate understanding of its' case numbers.¹⁶

Contact Tracing

Another innovation is the Rakning C-19 app, which was launched in April 2020 and uses GPS data to monitor the movements of app users. Location data is stored for 14 days before deletion and can only be accessed after permission is granted by the user. In the event of an app user testing positive for COVID-19, a message is sent via SMS with a request to view the stored location data. Access is only granted by the user entering in their National ID number, ensuring data privacy.¹⁷ Uptake of the Rakning C-19 app was reported to be around 40% as of June 2020, although it is unclear how effective the app has been in tracing infection.¹⁸

Vaccination

Iceland initially ran a priority-based vaccination program, however, as of the 1 June 2021, this has been replaced by a randomised system. A study conducted by deCODE and presented on 29 April 2021 suggested that vaccinating younger people first would limit the spread of COVID-19 more effectively than vaccinating older people. One of the scientists behind the study stated that a similar goal could be achieved through random vaccination.¹⁹ As of 7 June 2021, 188,209 individuals, or 52% of the population, had received their first vaccine dose, with 101,713 fully vaccinated.²⁰

There are currently four different vaccines in use in Iceland: Astra Zeneca, Janssen, Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech. Currently the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is the only vaccine permitted for use in children aged 16-18 in Iceland. Studies on the vaccine's use in children aged 12 - 16 are currently under review by the European Medicines Agency.²¹

Border Measures

A number of border controls have been in place throughout the pandemic and these have been frequently reviewed.²² The current requirement is that international travellers who have a certificate of full vaccination, i.e. have received both doses of a two dose vaccine, or have a certificate of previous infection, can visit Iceland regardless of their country of origin.²³ Travellers who meet this requirement do not need

¹² Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

¹³ GISAID Initiative website: <https://www.gisaid.org/index.php?id=208> accessed 16 June 2021

¹⁴ Keflavik airport COVID-19 rapid antigen testing website. <https://www.oryggi.is/is/oryggislausnir/avior/covid-19>. Accessed 17 June 2021

¹⁵ Iceland Government, COVID-19 data. <https://www.covid.is/data>. Accessed 16 June 2021

¹⁶ David Dowdy and Gypsyamber D'Souza, August 10, 2020, COVID-19 Testing: Understanding the "Percent Positive".

<https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/covid-19-testing-understanding-the-percent-positive.html>. Accessed 16 June 2021

¹⁷ Iceland Government, COVID-19 Tracing App data. <https://www.covid.is/app/en>. Accessed 15 June 2021

¹⁸ Exploring User-Uptake of Digital Contact Tracing Apps – A Practitioner Guide – Full Guide Version 2

https://figshare.com/articles/book/Exploring_User-Uptake_of_Digital_Contact_Tracing_Apps_-_A_Practitioner_Guide_-_Full/14423861. Accessed 17 June 2021

¹⁹ Iceland Review. COVID-19 in Iceland: Randomise Vaccination to Achieve Herd Immunity Sooner.

<https://www.icelandreview.com/society/covid-19-in-iceland-randomise-vaccination-to-achieve-herd-immunity-sooner/>. Accessed 17 June 2021

²⁰ Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

²¹ Iceland Government, COVID-19 vaccination. data <https://www.covid.is/covid-19-vaccine>. Accessed 16 June 2021

²² Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

²³ Icelandair. <https://www.icelandair.com/blog/iceland-is-open-faq/#who-can-visit-iceland->. Accessed 15 June 2021

to have a PCR test before boarding a flight to Iceland, but will, upon arrival in Iceland, be required to take a PCR test. Travellers are required to isolate at home, which in this context can refer to a home, hotel or other accommodation that fulfils certain requirements for at home quarantining, until a negative result is received. Test results currently take around five to six hours to be processed. It has been announced that by 1 July 2021, there will no longer be a requirement for testing upon arrival for passengers that can show either a vaccination certificate or a certificate of previous infection.

Vaccine certificates must comply with the Chief Epidemiologist's requirements, which include vaccination with a European Medicines Agency (EMA), or World Health Organisation (WHO), approved vaccine. There are further requirements regarding the language of the document, name of traveller, date of vaccination, number of doses, interval between doses, and type of vaccine also apply. Vaccine certificates can be presented in either a paper or electronic form to border control.²⁴

For travellers to Iceland who do not currently hold either a vaccine or previous infection certificate, further restrictions still apply. Visitors from European Economic Area (EEA)/European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries and those on the exemption list can visit Iceland, however there are restrictions on travellers from most other countries. New Zealand is included on the list of exempted countries meaning travel from New Zealand to Iceland is permitted.²⁵ For those permitted to travel to Iceland but who do not hold the required vaccine or previous infection certification, there will be a requirement for a negative PCR test, taken 72 hours before travel. Travellers within this category are also required to take a COVID-19 test upon arrival and a second test after five to six days, with the intervening time spent in quarantine, either at home or in suitable accommodation. Arrivals must also pre-register an address at which they intend to quarantine before travel.²⁶

There are several remaining domestic public health restrictions in Iceland. As with border restrictions, domestic measures are under frequent review. An outbreak of the Alpha variant, (also known as the UK variant or B.1.1.7) in March 2021 led to a tightening of restrictions, which were gradually relaxed from 15 April 2021.²⁷ The current domestic restrictions were put in place on 15 June 2021 and Iceland has indicated they will remain in place until 29 June 2021. Restrictions include limits on gatherings to less than 300 people, face masks to be worn where social distancing of one metre is not possible such as in taxis, and a limit of 150 guests in restaurants, night clubs and gambling establishments.²⁸

Tourism Sector

In 2019 the tourism sector accounted for around 8% of Iceland's GDP making it an important contributor to the nation's economy.²⁹ In comparison, the combination of direct and indirect contributions to New Zealand's economy from tourism in the year to March 2019 totalled 10% of GDP.³⁰ As a result of COVID-19 restrictions Iceland's tourism sector saw a decline in income initially estimated to be around 60% over the first nine months of 2020.³¹ Early restrictions included a ban on all non-essential travel from outside the EU, UK, or EEA/EFTA, imposed on 22 April 2020, as well a 14 day quarantine requirement on all international arrivals.³²

Iceland has seen some recovery in passenger numbers travelling to and from the country, with departures of foreign visitors leaving Keflavik airport up 1,291% in May 2021 compared to May 2020, with 14,395

²⁴ Iceland Directorate of Health. <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item44162/Certificate-of-vaccination-against-COVID-19-accepted-at-the-border>. Accessed 17 June 2021

²⁵ Iceland Police. <https://www.logreglan.is/english/regarding-travel-restrictions-to-iceland-as-a-result-of-covid-19/>. Accessed 15 June 2021

²⁶ Iceland Directorate of Health. <https://www.landlaeknir.is/um-embattid/greinar/grein/item43539/Instructions-for-persons-under-home-based-quarantine>. Accessed 15 June 2021

²⁷ Formal Message: Covid-19: Iceland: The "New Zealand Of The Nordics" – Iceland's Successful Covid Response And Reopening. RESTRICTED.

²⁸ Iceland Government, COVID-19 restrictions. <https://www.covid.is/categories/effective-restrictions-on-gatherings>. Accessed 15 June 2021

²⁹ Statistics Iceland. <https://www.statice.is/publications/news-archive/tourism/tourism-satellite-accounts-2018-2019/>. Accessed 16 June 2021

³⁰ Stats NZ. <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/tourism-satellite-account-2019>. Accessed 16 June 2021

³¹ Working Group of the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs. The Economic Impact of the Pandemic and Containment Measures - <https://www.government.is/library/Files/Efnahagsleg%20%20a1hrif%20fars%20%20%20og%20s%20%20b3ttvarna%20-ENG.pdf>. Accessed 15 June 21

³² Iceland Government. <https://www.government.is/news/article/2020/04/22/Iceland-Introduces-Temporary-Schengen-Border-Controls-and-14-day-Quarantine-for-International-Arrivals/>. Accessed 17 June 2021

passengers. This is still well below the 120,918 departures recorded in January 2020, the last month before COVID-19 was detected in Iceland.³³

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

2.1.2 Flight Arrivals and Departures

For the period 19 April to 15 June (following the opening of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia) there were a total of 176,155 arrivals to New Zealand, and 171,459 departures.³⁴ This is illustrated in figure 1 and a breakdown of these is shown below in figure 2 (arrivals) and figure 3 (departures).

There were 4,696 more people arriving in New Zealand than departed. For travel between Australia and New Zealand there were more arrivals than departures. For the Asia, Pacific and America regions there have been more departures than arrivals.

Figure 1: International Flight Arrivals and Departures – 19 April to 15 June

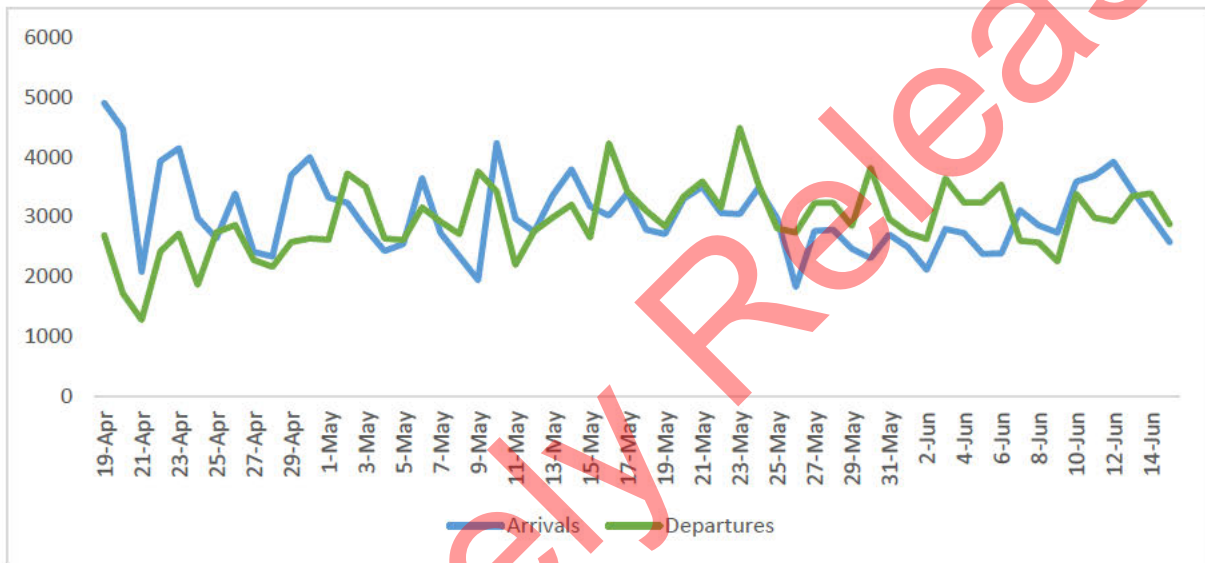
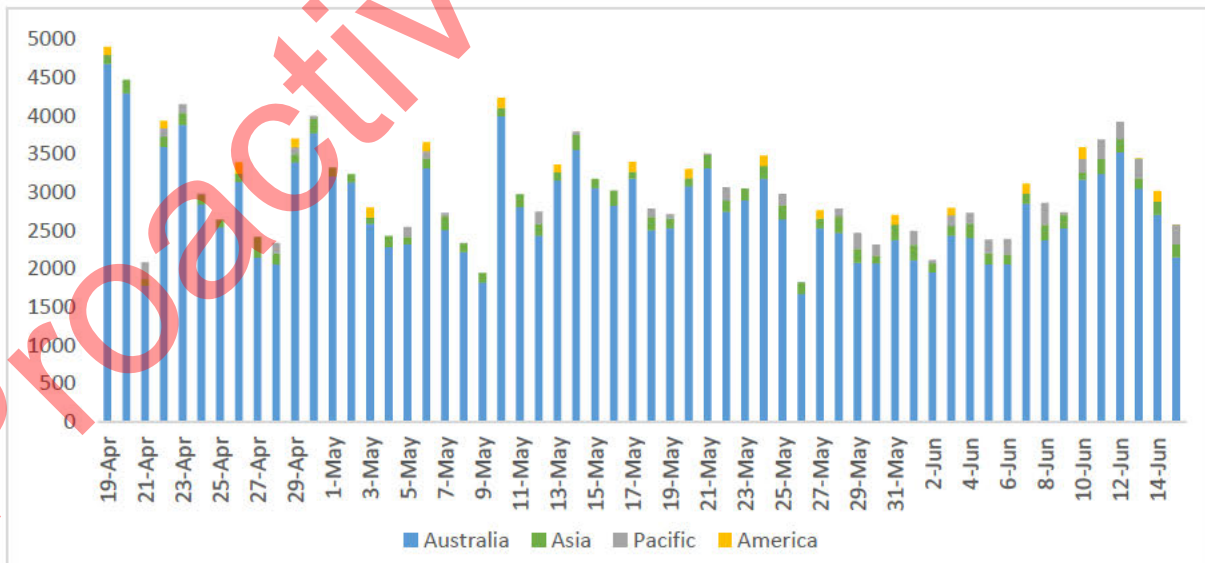


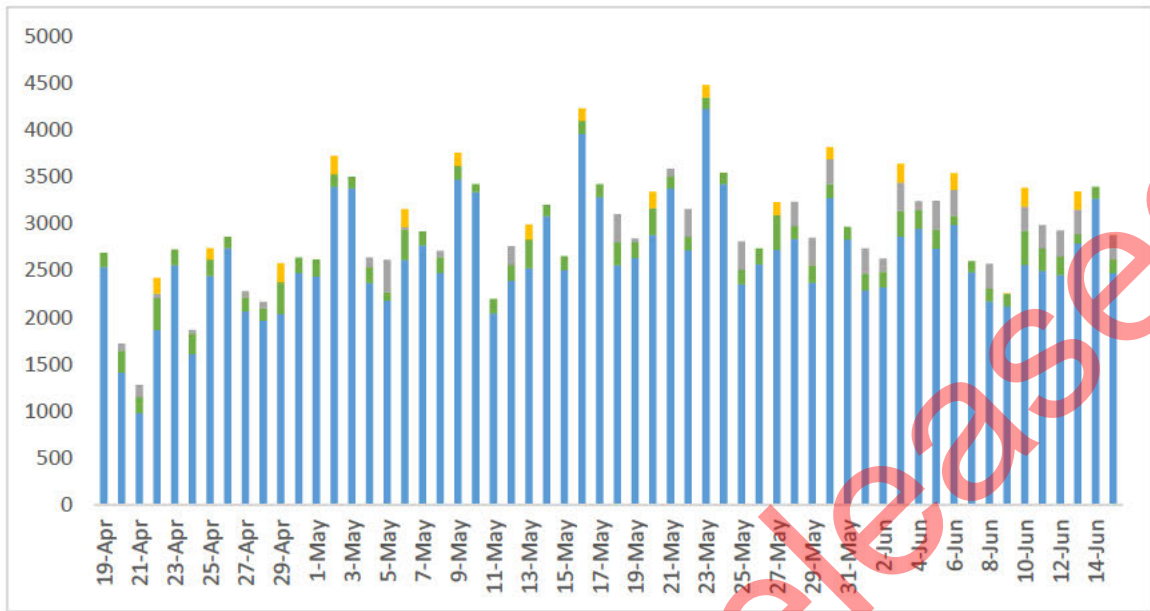
Figure 2: International Flight Arrivals – 19 April to 15 June



³³ Icelandic Tourist Board. <https://www.ferdamalastofa.is/en/research-and-statistics/numbers-of-foreign-visitors>. Accessed 16 June 2021

³⁴ Commercial Flights. New Zealand Customs Service. Personal Communication. 9 June 2021.

Figure 3: International Flight Departures – 19 April to 15 June



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

Proactively Released

3. Ministry of Health Weekly Report

3.1 Policy/Programme Updates

3.1.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11:59 pm 15 June 2021, 891,702 vaccinations have been delivered, including 324,514 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, 9 percent are Māori, 6 percent are Pasifika, and 17 percent are Asian.

155 vaccination sites were active on 15 June 2021.

55,000 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents 10 percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 15 June 2021.

The allocation plan for the next seven days is for 106,026 doses across New Zealand.

Eligibility to COVID-19 vaccination

The COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Direction 2021 (the 2021 Direction) was created to expand access to publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines to everyone in New Zealand regardless of their immigration status. The 2021 Direction is due to expire on 31 December 2021.

Following the recent establishment of quarantine free travel zones (and the understanding that similar arrangements may be established for other jurisdictions), the Ministry of Health has undertaken an interim review of the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility settings.

At this time the Ministry is not recommending any amendments to the 2021 Direction, as changes could undermine our efforts to maximise update of the COVID-19 vaccination. However, the Ministry will develop operational tools (communication and operational guidance) to:

- actively discourage short-term visitors from being vaccinated in New Zealand; and
- make it clear that the Ministry recommends they are vaccinated in their home countries.

The Ministry of Health will submit advice on the eligibility settings in November 2021, ahead of the 2021 Direction (or earlier should border settings change significantly).

'Book My Vaccine' (National Immunisation Booking System): DHB onboarding dates

As of 14 June 2021, Book My Vaccine is operational across 20 sites and has been used to make 19,954 bookings.

Mass vaccination events

Planning continues for the first mass vaccination event being held at the Vodafone Events Centre in South Auckland. Bookings will open to Manukau Institute of Technology staff, students and their whanāu following the decision to proceed and the Ministers' announcement.

The invitation strategy will target Māori and Pacific students first through the targeted learner programme. Booking numbers will be tracked daily and the invitation strategy will be amended if required.

Segmentation for Group 4

A Cabinet paper including a proposed segmentation approach for the general population rollout was submitted for consideration by Cabinet on 14 June 2021. A public announcement on this topic is expected on 17 June 2021.

Workforce

As of 15 June 2021, 7,666 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 3,018 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

The Ministry of Health partner, CBG, has completed calls to 9,000 people on the Hands Up vaccination team database (previously known as the 'surge workforce' database) to confirm that they are still ready, willing and available to vaccinate. We are working to upload this information into the new Hands Up database later this month for district health boards (DHBs). For those DHBs that require the information over the coming days to identify and target key groups, skills, and competencies we will provide this information to them with an approach to update the Hands Up database to keep the information up to date for all DHBs.

Distribution and inventory management

As at end of day 15 June 2021, we have made 105 deliveries to sites across the country. This equates to delivery of 159,474 vials or 956,844 doses.

Last week the Ministry of Health reached a big milestone by completing user acceptance testing and launching the new CIR Ordering and Inventory Management module. The new module automates the order fulfilment and inventory management processes, and gives the Ministry a more accurate national view, and DHBs a more accurate regional and local view, of vaccine orders, consumption, waste, and stock on hand. This module is a critical part for enabling the programme to scale safely and effectively.

This week the Ministry of Health also held the first drop-in session to train the first group of ten DHB logistics superusers. The transition to the new system will see Ministry Clinician Vaccine Integrated Platform Logistics staff entering orders from DHB and vaccination sites into the system this week, before switching to DHBs entering the orders themselves from 14 June 2021.

Rollout of the vaccine to Polynesia

Cook Islands

Vaccine rollout is on track in the Cook Islands. The Cook Islands have started administering the second dose in Rarotonga.

As of 15 June 2021, a total of 14,800 vaccines have been administered in Cook Islands. Forty-seven percent of the population is fully vaccinated.

Niue

A consignment of vaccines was delivered to Niue on 9 June 2021 to support the general vaccination rollout that commenced on 10 June 2021.

As of 13 June 2021, a total of 530 vaccines have been administered in Niue.

Tokelau

The New Zealand Defence Force is preparing its ship to transport the Pfizer vaccine in a frozen state to Tokelau and the remote Cook Islands. This requires the purchasing, installation and certification of cold chain storage on board.

It was communicated to Tokelau that given the logistics and regulatory challenges the vaccine rollout will commence no earlier than 18 July 2021.

Next steps

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

3.2 Technical Advisory Group: Update

COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 8 June 2021. The key points that were discussed were:

- **Research prioritisation framework:** The post-event workstream presented the proposed prioritisation framework for research on surveillance questions of importance to New Zealand. CVTAG generally supported the prioritisation framework and recommended that equity considerations be weaved into all criteria in the framework.

- **Decision to use Pfizer for 12 to 15-year olds:** The policy team sought advice from CVTAG regarding the decision to use the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 12 to 15-year-olds. CVTAG discussed the results from the Phase 3 trials in children aged 12 to 15 years for the Pfizer vaccine. CVTAG will provide recommendations to inform the decision to use the Pfizer vaccine for 12 to 15-year-olds, including an evaluation of the risks and the benefits. CVTAG noted that it would like to review any conditions recommended by Medsafe, prior to finalising its recommendations.
- **Upcoming decisions on Janssen and AstraZeneca:** The policy team noted that Medsafe decisions on the AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines are expected shortly and CVTAG will be consulted for advice on a decision to use both of these vaccines.
- **Update on use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy:** CVTAG was notified that the Ministry of Health has been working with The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) to update the recommendations for pregnancy. The recommendations from RANZCOG are consistent with that of the Ministry of Health, IMAC, and Australian authorities, and state that the Pfizer vaccine can be administered at any stage during pregnancy.

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) did not meet in the week commencing 7 June 2021. The next TAG meeting is scheduled for 25 June 2021.

3.3 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 17 June 2021

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial involvement
16 June 2021	Quarantine free travel – current pause expires at 11.59 Thursday	Ministry of Health	Press release, web content	Yes
18 June 2021	Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) rapid review of managed isolation facilities	MBIE	Press release, web content, Reactive lines	No

3.4 Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context
Publication: The National Telehealth Service Annual Plan 2020/2021	No later than 18 June 2021	This 2020/21 annual plan is the fifth for the National Telehealth Service. The 2020/21 plan centres around three key focus areas that collectively see the National Telehealth Service deliver integrated solutions across the physical, mental and social health sectors, while continuing to provide more equitable and sustainable health outcomes for every New Zealander. These focuses will enable the National Telehealth Service to extend the reach to New Zealand's most inequitable areas of health – priority populations, children, mental health, primary care – while also continuing to adapt and enhance their services and experiences.

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Top Items to Note

4.1.1 Staff testing update – compliance statistics for 31 to 6 June 2021

The ransomware attack on the Waikato DHB continues to cause delays in swab testing results. This delay has again impacted this week’s compliance reporting for Waikato based border workers in MIQ.

As at 14 June 2021, there are 5,955 active MBIE MIQ workers in BWTR. Of that, 4,133 (70%) worked on site during the week of Monday 7 June to Sunday 13 June 2021.

We are working with MoH to improve alignment of reporting. MoH are currently finalising the mechanisms that will enable us to report the same data covering the same period. Until we have those tools, we will continue to report on ‘active’ workers in BWTR and workers who were on site for the previous week (as below). The number of total ‘active’ workers will continually fluctuate as previously reported.

Note, our data shows 90% compliance for workers on site last week compared to 87% reported in the MoH dashboard. This is because MoH have reported on the seven days up to 16 June 2021 where we focus on the work week of 7 to 13 June 2021

Active workers	Total	Percentage of active	No swab
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,469	77%	
Overdue NHI-matched workers	1,368	23%	157
Total active workers with NHI match	5,837	100%	
Need NHI-match	118		
Total active workers	5,955		

Workers on site 7 – 13 June 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	3,687	90% (96% if Hamilton excluded)
Overdue NHI-matched workers	419 (144 if Hamilton excluded)	10% (4% if Hamilton excluded)
Need NHI-match	27	
Workers on site with NHI match	4,133	

The number of workers who had not had a swab has reduced from 173 to 157 since last week. Those workers who needed an NHI match has also reduced from 152 to 118.

The Workforce Testing Team continue to actively follow up with employers regarding overdue workers and where more information is needed to make an NHI-match.

It is worth noting that the active category includes instances:

- where a worker may have two or more NHI numbers and test results are uploading against an NHI number that is not linked to the BWTR profile;
- where workers who were signed-in on location didn’t actually enter a facility;
- where workers have not been on site in some time (in some cases months) but are considered ‘active’ as they are awaiting a test to make them compliant. As previously reported, from following up with employers, it became evident that many employers and employees were unaware they were required to have a final test after their last shift. New communications material for ‘off-boarding’ workers as well as regular follow-ups with employers should reduce these type of non-compliant workers going forward.

4.1.2 Vaccination of frontline staff update

According to BWTR, the total number of unvaccinated workers on site last week was 78 (2% of the workforce). Of these 78 workers, 27 have yet to be NHI matched and have their vaccination status confirmed in BWTR which leaves 51 where their vaccination status is unknown. Security Personnel completing on-site access checks reported no issue of workers gaining access who do not meet the vaccination requirements. Due to a lag in data uploading into BWTR and NHI issues, we will follow up with the employers of those 51 workers to confirm their vaccine status.

Four workers who were unable to secure their second vaccination prior to 5 June 2021 (due to sick leave, annual leave, appointment availability) who are required to receive it and provide proof before they are granted site entry. Employers have indicated these workers are not unable/unwilling to be vaccinated. We continue to check with employers to see if these workers have received their second vaccine dose in order to update our register.

Eleven workers have indicated they are unable/unwilling to get fully vaccinated. Employers are still working through employment processes with these unvaccinated workers and these workers are not able to work in the MIQF while this process is occurring. Of these, five are MIQF hotel workers and the remaining six are non-hotel workers. Of these workers unable/unwilling to be vaccinated, seven are workers who have chosen not to have their second vaccine dose, some based on medical advice due to their reaction to the first dose.

We are continuing to work with MoH on aligning our reporting moving forward.

4.2 Operational update

4.2.1 Capacity update

As at 16 June 2021, there is currently no availability in MIAS for June through to October 2021. Further rooms will be released at the start of July 2021.

The rolling India travel suspension, particularly for NZ citizens and permanent residents from India, is creating a rollover impact from month to month. MIQ are actively validating room bookings to minimise multiple bookings.

Last week a total of 430 rooms were released into MIAS in accordance with the Voucher Release Framework. All rooms released last week have been taken. MIQ has released 1,700 rooms over the past two weeks across August through to October 2021.

4.2.2 Breaking cohorting in Christchurch facility

On 7 June 2021, a direct international flight landed in Christchurch. The returnees on this flight were intended to go to the Commodore MIF as part of a cohort, however the returnees were instead directed to the Crowne Plaza MIF. This meant that the cohorting arrangements in this facility, the Crown Plaza, were broken as there were returnees from a different cohort already late in their stay (Day 12+) at the facility.

The decision to break cohorting occurred following consideration of a possible health risk. When the flight was on the tarmac, MIQ were advised by a Medical Officer of Health that, due to a number of positive cases and close contacts at the Commodore MIF, the flight should be redirected elsewhere. There were no other facilities in Christchurch which could house this flight within cohorting timeframes.

The decision to break the cohorting model was implemented by MIQ based on this advice and the risk to the health of the returnees and staff inside the Commodore MIF.

Situations in which cohorting may need to be suspended/broken is being considered as part of the current review of the implementation of cohorting and further advice will be provided to you in early July 2021.

4.2.3 De-designation and re-designation of facilities

The temporary de-designation of the Jet Park facility in Hamilton has been approved for the period 13 to 18 June 2021. The Jet Park has been de-designated over this period in order to carry out maintenance to maintain Building Warrant of Fitness Standards.

The Grand Mercure ventilation remediation work is complete. Following protocol and final checks, the hotel will be re-designated and is set to receive returnees with a flight scheduled to arrive on Saturday 19 June 2021. The facility will go back online with cohorting, with a view to fill the facility over the weekend.

4.2.4 Ombudsman update

An inspection of the Bay Plaza Wellington occurred on 15 June 2021 and we are now awaiting a report.

We received the final report on the Grand Mercure Wellington. We are reviewing the report and preparing our response.

We have received a follow up in relation to the implementation of recommendations arising from the inspections of the Sudima Rotorua, Rydges Rotorua and Four Points Auckland, which occurred in October and December 2020. We are working with the relevant teams to provide comment and information to the Ombudsman on these.

4.2.5 Managed Isolation Walk

MIQ is reviewing the practice of MIWs (which involves bussing returnees to a designated exercise area).

After a review, prompted by the Grand Mercure incident and others we are considering options to eliminate MIWs and provide on-site access to fresh air for returnees. We are currently finalising this review and expect to have a decision made early next week, taking into account public health, operational, and legal advice.

This will mean the level of space provided for returnees is more limited than currently offered and “exercise” will not be possible. Rather, time to get fresh air for the returnees will be available. Once we have made a final decision, we will inform you of this via the Weekly Report.

Four Auckland facilities provide returnees with access to fresh air by transporting individuals from the Managed Isolation Facility (MIF), to an outdoor area, via bus. The process is known as ‘Managed Isolation Walks’ (MIWs). Maintaining physical distancing and IP&C for the transit period is a complex, choreographed activity relying on well trained staff, good procedures and compliant returnees.

The Grand Mercure Auckland is due to re-open on 19 June 2021 and MIQ will introduce on-site access to fresh air on re-opening as we are confident that the space identified is appropriate to meet requirements. We will monitor this closely during the first cohort of returnees.

4.2.6 Filming at Grand Millennium MIF

While the Grand Millennium is empty for remediation work, we are taking the opportunity to do some filming.

The purpose of this is to get footage for the usual processes which occur in a managed isolation facility such as arrival, departure, food delivery and health checks.

These will then be used for online videos for returnees so they can understand what happens in a MIF and what their obligations are when they arrive. Where possible, they will also be used for staff induction purposes.

4.3 Schedule of Reviews

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
Rapid Assessment	February 2021	Complete	Preparing for proactive release – Friday, 18 June 2021	Commissioned by the MBIE Chief Executive to help identify practical recommendations for improvement opportunities across the MIQ system.
Sudden Death Critical Incident Review	January 2021	June 2021	Complete – We are in the process of preparing a paper for your office.	To identify any lessons learnt from the response to the death of a guest in a MIF and determine if any changes should be put in place.
Financial Management Review	May 2021	June 2021	In progress	Identify opportunities for improvement in process and procedures for supplier invoicing, review of financial reporting that is currently in place and review of financial delegations framework.
MIQ Staff Unwell - Health Checks (control hotspot)	May 2021	June 2021	In progress	The purpose of this review is to determine the degree of implementation of published risk, assurance and quality controls and treatments; the capability and effectiveness of the system in ensuring continual application, review and improvement of these controls and treatments for potential improvement of the wider MIQ system integrating continuous improvement and risk-based thinking through evidence-based assurance.
MIQ PCBU Health and Safety Obligations Review	April 2021	July 2021	In progress	This review is to identify MBIE's responsibilities as a lead PCBU and assess how well these responsibilities are fulfilled to support other PCBUs meet their health and safety obligations.
MIQ KPI Review	Scheduled to start June 2021	July 2021	Planning	The purpose of this review is to test the accuracy, completeness and validity of the calculation and supporting data for the Estimates Performance Measures that reported by Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) in MBIE's 2020/21 Annual Report.
Fees and Waiver Review	Scheduled to start June 2021	August 2021	Planning	TBC
MIQ Exemptions Review	Scheduled to start June 2021	August 2021	Planning	To assess consistency, transparency and fairness of the exemptions from managed isolation process for people entering New Zealand.
Onsite Ventilation Assessments	February 2021	Testing: May 2021 Programme of work: August 2021	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.

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
MIQ Rapid Assessment (Phase 2)	Scheduled to start August 2021	October 2021	Planning	This will be a follow-up review following the MIQ Rapid Assessment which was completed earlier this year.
Rapid review of Border Worker Testing (BEB led)	April 2021	Two part review. Part one (focused on MIQ) due to be presented to BEB in June. Part two (focused on wider border) still TBC when it will be completed	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.
Regular, ongoing reviews				
MoH Infection Prevention Control Audits of MIQ facilities	July 2020	-	Ongoing	The Ministry of Health conducts regular audits into infection prevention and control (IPC) at the managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) facilities around New Zealand. MIQ facilities are an important part of our border measures to keep COVID-19 out of the community. It 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 16 June 2021

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
Olympic athletes	6 May – 1 Jul 2021	157	46	These are returnees from Tokyo Olympic qualifying events, with various return dates. 157 allocated, only 48 pax using allocation (in 46 rooms). This is due to some obtaining vouchers through MIAS, events being cancelled and athletes choosing not to travel.
NZDF Operation WHIO	26 Jul 2021	35	35	
	29 Jul 2021	16	16	
RSE	4 Jul 2021	150	116 (150 pax) TBC	Industry have a confirmed 4 July 2021 start date, with RSEs arriving every 16 days concluding March 2022. This includes a reduction in numbers in October 2021 as directed by Ministers. The start date of the October 2021 reduction will depend on Industry maintaining the schedule cadence from 4 July 2021. 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	

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
				The total number of rooms allocated to RSE workers for the duration of the Border Exception 2 will be a minimum of 1,740 and maximum of 2,250.
Rugby Fiji	18 Jun 2021	47	35	The Fijian rugby team will be arriving from multiple locations and will go into Christchurch. An exemption to train has been approved. The Fijian based contingent (10 pax) will be arriving one day after the rest of the contingent due to constraints around flights. This will not impact the exemption to train however it does increase the operational complexity of the group.
Cricket – Black Caps	18 Jun 2021	6	6	These are returning cricketers with no special training requirements.
	26 Jun 2021	20	20	
International Students	2 Jun 2021	100	4	MoE have experienced difficulty in filling up the flights.
	9 Jun 2021	100	12	
	16 Jun 2021	100	6	
	23 Jun 2021	100	29	
Refugees – Intake 1	24 Jun – 2 Jul 2021	115	93	Refugee families will arrive across 8 intakes for the 2021/22 financial year. All intakes will be accommodated at the Holiday Inn. Intake 1 will arrive from 24 June 2021 from Thailand, Malaysia, Lebanon, Ecuador, Iran, Ethiopia, and Cambodia. Onsite interpreter services will be extended to include the first four days and the final three days at the MIF.
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. These unused vouchers have been released back into MIAS.
	Jul 2021	60	0	
	Aug 2021	60	TBC	
	Sep 2021	60	TBC	
Winter Games	19 Jul 2021	30	TBC	Major Events advised that there are non-MIQ related obstacles that may prevent this event proceeding.
Antarctic USAP	16 Jul 2021	34	TBC	This group will be entering on charter flights direct into Christchurch.
	19 Jul 2021	170	TBC	
Netball – English Roses	19 Jul 2021	30	TBC	This will be the first sports team under the new full cost recovery model.
Returning Olympic Athletes (3 cohorts)	2 Aug 2021	~200	TBC	This group are athletes, staff and media returning from the Olympics on three charter flights. If within allocation limits, SportNZ and NZOC will facilitate some Pacific Island Olympic athletes to return as part of the group.
	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.

4.4.1 RSE

Industry indicated they may not be able to meet a delivery cadence of arrivals every 16 days citing difficulty to secure landing slots on the scheduled arrival day. This is a risk as MIQ approaches a peak demand period, along with the negative optics of up to 116 rooms sitting empty for any period. It also presents a financial risk for MIQ if a quota of rooms are held but not used, in part or whole, by Industry. Industry are only financially liable for confirmed spaces 10 working days out from arrival.

A flow on effect of consistent schedule delays means that fewer RSE workers will be able to enter by the end of March 2022. Additional flights cannot be added to the end of the schedule as this will exceed the entry conditions of Border Exemption 2. The maximum estimated total RSE arrivals, based on a 4 July 2021 start, is now 2,250.

Regional issues have been resolved and teams on the ground are on track to receive RSE arrivals on 4 July 2021.

MIQ has been advised that as at 14 June 2021, 112 applications have been received by Immigration, with a remaining 38 due by Thursday 17 June 2021. INZ are processing visa applications as they arrive and the final number of visas issued for the first flight will be known on Friday 25 June 2021.

4.4.2 Expressions of Interest for Group Allocation

Fifteen Expressions of Interest were received for group allocations for groups arriving from November 2021 through to the end of March 2022. The EOIs are undergoing assessment and the Group Allocation package is being prepared for the Border Exception Senior Officials Group and Border Exception Ministers Group, with decisions expected early July 2021.

4.4.3 Time Sensitive Travel

The next submission window for Time Sensitive Travel opens 1 July 2021 for the October period. The online application form is undergoing user testing and the expected release date is 30 June 2021 to coincide with the next submission window.

4.5 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 15 June 2021

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
Mid-late June 2021	Rapid Assessment of MIQ	MIQ	Proactive PR	N
17 June 2021	Thanks from Iso' exhibition - Rotorua Lakes Council Galleria	Accor / MIQ / Rotorua Lakes Council	Proactive communications	N
Late June 2021	Saliva testing of frontline border workers prototype starts in Canterbury	MIQ/MOH	Reactive information	N
22 June 2021	Hui wānanga	MIQ	Working with partners	Y
23 June 2021	Estimates (Health Select Committee)	MoH/MBIE/MIQ	Preparatory communications. Supporting material has been provided to your office.	Y

4.6 Fees

4.6.1 Invoicing

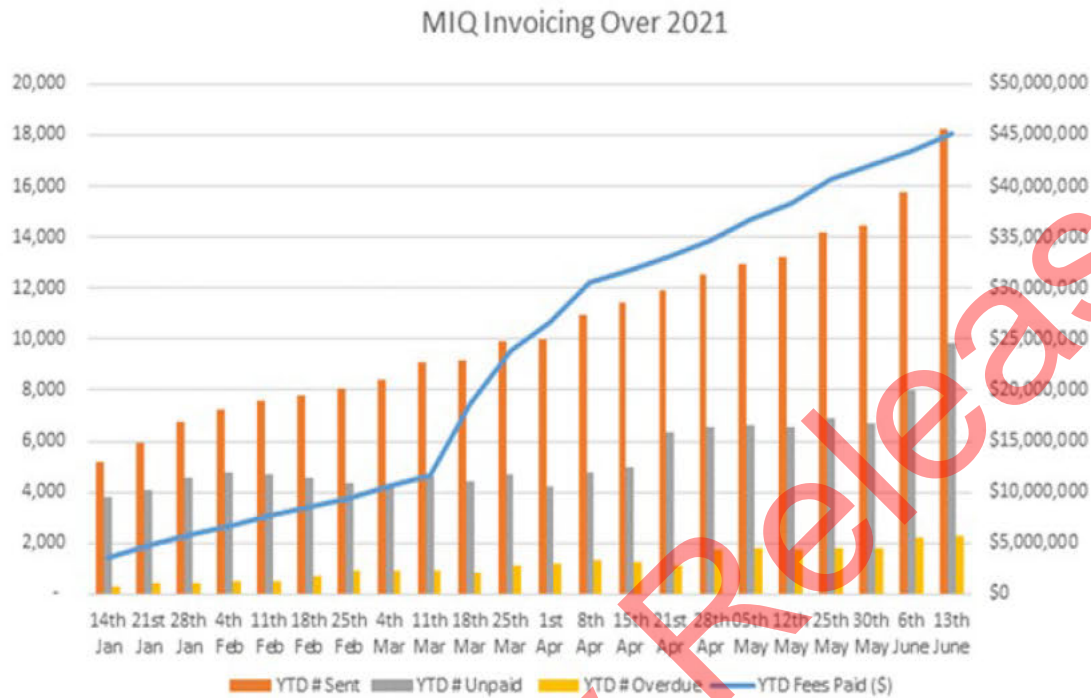
The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to the 13 June 2021.

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 ¹	53	18	33	2	\$13,964,589	\$13,704,763	\$252,770	\$7,056	0	\$0
Maritime	321	193	107	21	\$1,397,174	\$888,246	\$460,813	\$48,115	5	\$3,986
Aircrew	204	106	38	60	\$1,088,205	\$716,781	\$118,751	\$252,673	4	\$53,197
Other	17,638	8,065	7384	2189	\$62,555,693	\$29,848,630	\$26,065,602	\$6,641,461	694	\$2,113,909
Total	18,216	8,382	7,562	2,272	\$79,005,661	\$45,158,420	\$26,897,936	\$6,949,304	703	\$2,171,091

¹Please 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 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 Aug 2020 and 13 Jun 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
7,314	1,242	6,072	776	5,296	84	4,558	692	738

4.7 Emergency Allocation Applications

- 3,273 applications have been processed since 30 Oct 2020.
- 62 applications were received in the week ending 13 June 2021 and 23 applications were processed.
- From the applications processed in the week ending 13 June 2021, 78% of the applications were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 6 Jun 2021 to 13 Jun 2021	Year to Date Totals 30 Oct 2020 to 13 Jun 2021
Approved	18	1,826
Declined	5	1,447
Applications processed*	23	3,273

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

Total Rooms Approved	18
Rooms Allocated in MIAS	14
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 8 June to 14 June 2021 is as follows:

Week	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
8 Jun 2021 – 14 Jun 2021			
Complaints	64	32	67
Improvements	0	0	0
Compliments	0	0	0
Queries	7	2	5
Ombudsman	16	24	14
Parliamentary/OIA	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total	87	58	86

- The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 102. For the last 4 weeks the average is 75 per week.
- This week we have received 87 new cases and have resolved 86 cases.
- We have observed a decrease in complaints about facilities, while numbers for other areas remain steady. Of these complaints, fee waivers were the highest, featuring in 40% of all complaints, with facilities dropping to 20%. We saw a decrease in complaints about emergency allocations, but an increase in complaints about isolation exemptions.

5. Border Executive Board Report



5.1 Key Issues Being Considered by the Executive Board

5.1.1 Border Sector Scenarios Updated

The cross-agency Border Sector Forecasting Team (the Forecasting Team) recently updated the border sector scenarios for the recovery of international air passenger travel, cruise passenger travel, and cargo volumes. This May 2021 update focused on updating the scenarios to reflect the start date of trans-Tasman Quarantine-Free Travel (QFT).

The Border Executive Board agreed that following some clarification of the cargo scenarios, the 'moderate' scenarios should be used as the basis for performance and planning activities of border and transport agencies.

Previously, border and transport agencies have used these scenarios to form the basis of Cabinet papers and budget bids relating to the financial sustainability issues caused by the reduction in cargo and travellers crossing the border.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and the Treasury were consulted on the updated scenarios. DPMC noted that the assumptions were broadly consistent with its approach. The Treasury noted that the date to open the border was later in the border sector scenarios than in the Treasury 'main forecast' for the Budget Economic and Fiscal Update 2021. However, the Forecasting Team agreed to not change the dates at this time due to the uncertainty around factors such as the vaccine rollout.

The Forecasting Team will, before the end of this calendar year, update these scenarios and report back to the Border Executive Board. More data about QFT volumes, and the potential for additional decisions around the re-opening of the border, may mean this next update is more significant.

5.1.2 Review of Border Worker Testing – Phase One (MIQ)

This independent review assessed existing arrangements, along with planned improvements, to ensure that all people requiring testing are being tested under the Required Testing Order.

The review is near completion; the draft report was discussed at the Border Executive Board meeting on 10 June 2021.

The first phase of the review focused on MIQ; it concluded that the border worker testing arrangements to support compliance with the Order have progressively improved since the Order first came into effect. It noted that further improvements are needed to provide a more accurate view of, and better support, compliance with the Order. Ten recommendations directly related to the testing arrangements and one to the process for design and implementation of control measures.

The second phase of the review will consider workers at affected airports and affected ports.

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Maritime

The New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) is maintaining oversight on a small craft of interest which [REDACTED] s6(c) [REDACTED]. The vessel is said to have one New Zealander on board.

At this stage all paperwork for vessel's entry has been completed; however there appears to be discrepancies in what the person on board has declared to Customs regarding their journey to New Zealand.

s6(c) [REDACTED] The vessel will be met upon arrival and further risk assessed by Customs.

6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 7 June 2021 to 13 June 2021, two infringements and one warning were issued.

- s6(c) [REDACTED]
- s6(c) [REDACTED]
- s6(c) [REDACTED]

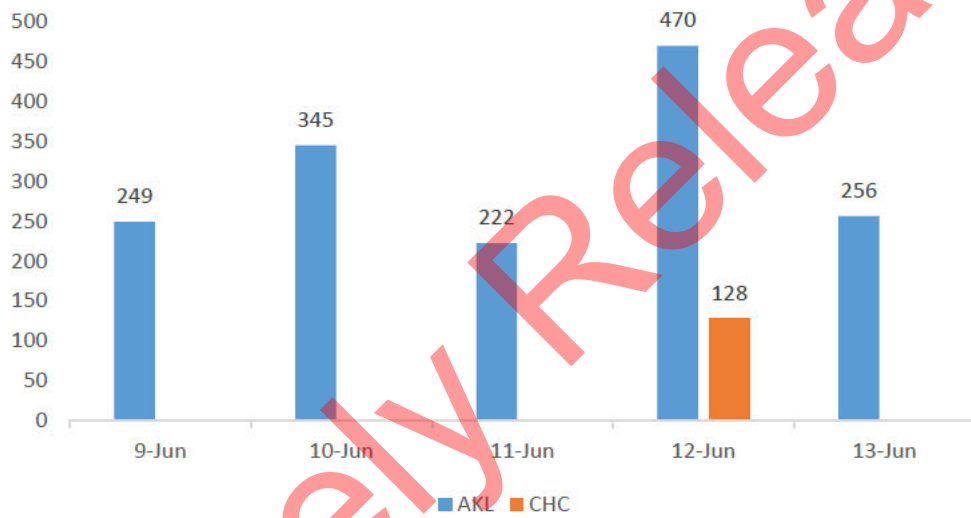
Passengers

	Date	7 June	8 June	9 June	10 June	11 June	12 June	13 June	Week Total	%
	Total Passengers	3110	2811	2742	3625	3686	3822	3370	23166	
	Passengers subject to PDT	262	271	223	238	194	258	167	1613	7.0%
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	251	256	209	224	243	243	145	1517	94.0%
	Exemption Verified	5	12	5	6	8	8	9	48	3.0%
	Referred to Secondary Area	6	3	9	8	7	7	13	48	3.0%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	5	2	8	8	7	7	13	45	94.0%
	Warned	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.0%
	Infringement	0	1	1	0	0	0		2	4.0%
	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

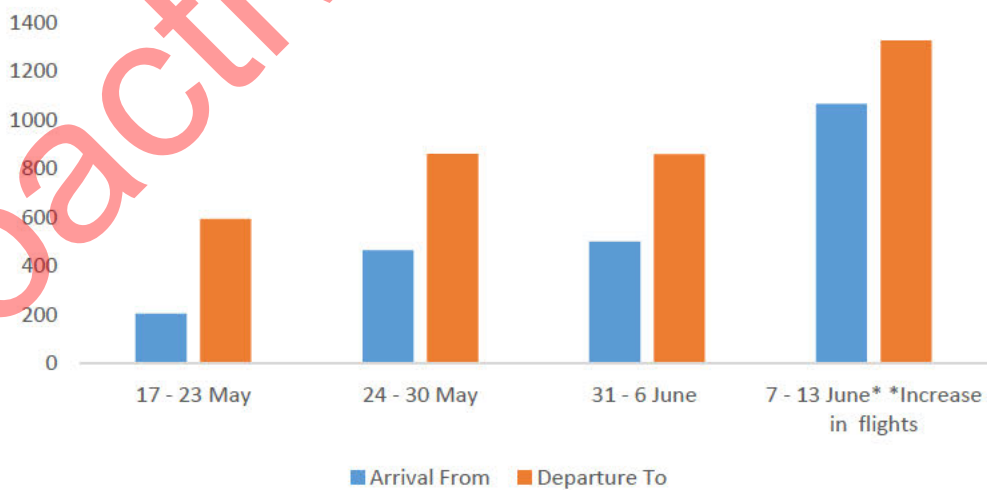
Crew

	Date	7 June	8 June	9 June	10 June	11 June	12 June	13 June	Week Total	%
	Crew subject to PDT	69	75	94	36	62	71	7	415	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	69	75	94	36	62	70	7	414	99.7%
	Exemption Verified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Referred to Secondary Area	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.3%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	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

6.2 Passenger Numbers – Arrivals from Melbourne



6.3 Passenger Numbers – Cook Islands



7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

7.1 Items to Note/Updates

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

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

Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group

8.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Group met on 15 June as the first of their regular fortnightly meetings. The key focus of the meeting was to discuss the forward work programme and initial priorities for the Group. The priorities that were provisionally agreed to will be provided to your office as part of the forward work programme within the coming week.

The report back to Cabinet on the findings of the Group's review of the Auckland February 2021 outbreak and their forward work programme has been deferred to either 21 or 28 June. Following the report to Cabinet, your office intends to publish the first proactive release package that will include (inter alia) the review report, the two letters from Sir Brian Roche (the Chair) to you and your letter to Chief Executives and the Chair in response.

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Group met on 16 June to discuss the modelling commissioned and the next report due to Ministers. The report will cover testing and feedback on reconnection New Zealanders. The Group also discussed the schedule of its work programme and the potential of moving to a fortnightly meeting cadence in the near term. The next meeting for the Group is currently scheduled for 23 June.

10. Business Leaders Forum

Business Leaders Forum

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum met on 11 June with the Prime Minister. The meeting included discussions regarding:

- emerging findings from COVID-19 vaccine modelling
- options regarding traveller restrictions as New Zealand reconnects its people with the world
- the COVID-19 vaccination programme, particularly including options regarding workplace-based vaccinations, and
- technologies that may assist risk management and mitigation at the border.

The next Business Leaders' Forum is likely to focus on how the business community can reinforce public health behaviours.

11. Government Modelling Group

Government Modelling
Group

11.1 Items to Note/Updates


The COVID-19 Modelling Steering Group is working with Shaun Hendy, and other Te Pūnaha Matatini (TPM) researchers, on modelling which explores COVID-19 dynamics across different vaccination coverage states for the New Zealand population. The next meeting of the group is 22 June.

Interpretation of the results has been discussed with the researchers, and officials have separately been considering policy implications. The board expects to schedule a specific meeting for their next project, which is investigating the risk mitigation achieved by different settings and arrangements, in the near future.

Proactively Released

12. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

s9(2)(f)(iv)



Proactively Released

13. Official Information Act Requests

13.1 Ministry of Health

Date due	Requestor	OIA Request	Status
12 May 21	Chris Bishop	The full Ministry of Health paper dated 26 January 2021 referred to in the House; and any covering report or aides-mémoire from the Ministry relating to it. The "several updated delivery schedules from Pfizer" referred to in the House. "The model" the government operates to which was referred to in the House.	At Minister's office
16 Jun 21	Chris Bishop	The full Review of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020 received on 17 February 2021 and the review referred to from March and the advice that relates.	At Minister's office
18 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	List and information about, papers about proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and dates of oral briefings on the subject, from 1 November 2020.	At Minister's office
29 Jun 21	Chris Bishop	Briefings/reports/aide memoires to you and your office from the Ministry of Health relating to saliva testing in 2021	In progress
30 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	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" Questions and information in relation to New Zealand's purchase and receipt of COVID-19 vaccinations through the COVAX initiative.	In progress
30 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	Advice received by the Minister concerning validation of vaccinations for those vaccinated overseas, or for Kiwis vaccinated here travelling overseas.	In progress
1 Jul 21	Chris Bishop	Information relating to feedback received from Pfizer, specifically containing the phrase "lock-step".	In progress
7 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Information regarding if MIQ is necessary or changing the MIQ requirements for people who are vaccinated against Covid-19.	In progress

13.2 Managed Isolation and Quarantine

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

Date due	Requestor	Media/Opposition	OIA Request	Status
1 Sep 20	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	All docs etc. for MIQ charges policy incl. for treaty obligations & BORA.	Overdue
23 Dec 20	s9(2)(a)	Stuff	Complaints lodged by residents of managed isolation facilities.	Under review
18 Mar 21	s9(2)(a)	NZ Herald	Subsequent advice from meetings with iwi about MIQ facilities.	Decision on request sent
29 Mar 21	s9(2)(a)	Newshub	Complaints at MIQ - Workers who has been dismissed and reasons at MIQ.	Under review
20 Apr 21	s9(2)(a)	Stuff	What advice was given/research conducted regards alternative MIQ options.	Response sent
30 Apr 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Risk management programme for each and every premises used for MIQ.	Under review
30 Apr 21	s9(2)(a)	RNZ	All docs re COVID contact tracing card trial at Bay Plaza in Welly 7/12/20.	Under review
4 May 21	s9(2)(a)	Newshub	Corr. and query regarding COVID card trial in MIQ cost.	Decision on request sent
11 May 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Identity of certain NZDF staff at an MIQ facility.	Under review
17 May 21	s9(2)(a)	NZ Herald	Advice to Minister's on current testing rates and addressing challenges.	Under review
24 May 21	s9(2)	Not applicable	Records for security purposes.	Under review
24 May 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Information around Oriental Bay Plaza Wellington requesting no MIQ signs.	Gathering information

Date due	Requestor	Media/Opposition	OIA Request	Status
25 May 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Details around any security breaches at MIQ facility on Oriental Parade.	Gathering information
27 May 21	s9(2)(a)	NZ Herald	Request for paper on assessment of proposals for sport MIQ.	Under review
8 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	NZ Herald	RE all corr relating to DOIA 2021-1194.	Under review
11 Jun 21	Chris Bishop	Opposition	Papers produced for MBIE workshop held on 20/01/21 with MoH/Private Sector.	Under review
11 Jun 21	s9(2)	Newshub	All comms between MBIE and Pullman hotel management Jan 2021-Mar 2021.	Under review
14 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	TVNZ	Breakdown of declined emergency MIQ spots.	Under review
14 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Comms etc re Release request of MIQ facilities proposal.	Gathering information
16 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	NZ Herald	Release of document re; Assessment of Proposals for a sport MIQ Facility.	Gathering information
16 Jun 21	s9(2)	Not applicable	Private Security Providers - breakdown of citizens and non-citizens.	Packaging
17 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	RE corr regarding connections between MBIE (MIQ) & Stamford hotel group.	Packaging
21 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	RNZ	Details on MIQ breaches from 14th of June 20 until the 21st of April 21.	Drafting
23 Jun 21	s9()	Not applicable	RE no. of people in quarantine being involuntarily detained by DHBS.	Scoping
24 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Percentage of bus drivers operating for MIQ.	Approved
25 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	Newshub / Discovery NZ	Queries on SIM cards in MIQ.	Drafting
28 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	Newshub	Unaccompanied minors in managed isolation facilities.	Under review
1 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Number of people through MIQ and cost to government.	Scoping
1 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	RNZ	RE statistics on how many security guards work at MIQ fac. & costs.	Under review
2 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	TVNZ	corr regarding NZ citizen from Melbourne travelling to see sick relative.	Gathering information
2 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	NZME	complaints made by MIQ facilities about first security.	Scoping
2 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	NZME	corr from MIQ facilities enquiring no longer being a MIQ facility.	Scoping
2 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	data on no. of children & demographics that have stayed in MIQ facility.	Scoping
5 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Complaints procedure and the process followed once this is initiated.	Scoping
5 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Stuff	All correspondence received and sent by C-RIQ staff between 20/9-20/11/20.	Gathering information
5 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	Records about gas meter reading company Arthur D Riley reading meter at MIQ.	Gathering information
12 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	How many people have passed through MIQ 1/1/2020 to 28/5/2021.	Scoping
12 Jul 21	s9(2)(a)	Not applicable	MIQ policy for vaccinated Residents, consideration for isolating at home.	Scoping

13.3 COVID-19 Group

Date due	Requestor	OIA Request	Status
29 May 20	s9(2)	All documentation pertaining to the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts that your organization has been involved in 2020.	Drafting
25 June 21	s9(Request for marketing material planned for use in the Covid-19 Group 4 rollout.	Scoping
15 June 21	s9(2)	Info and data relating to Managed Quarantine.	Drafting
15 June 21	s9(For the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group meeting minutes, advice provided to the Minister for the Covid-19 Response.	Scoping
24 June 21	Doocey	Copy of paper taken to cabinet on 29 March 2021: 'Funding for the COVID-19 Post-Pandemic Public Health Advisory Group' received on 9 April 2021.'	Scoping
25 June 21	s9(Copies of all advice provided to the Minister for the COVID-19 Response.	Scoping
29 June 21	s9(Marketing and PR data for COVID-19 messaging.	Scoping
29 June 21	s9(2)(a)	Details regarding COVID recovery programs.	Scoping
30 June 21	s9(2)	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
6 July 2021	s9(2	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

13.4 New Zealand Customs Service

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

Date due	Requestor	OIA Request	Status
28 Jun 21	s9(2)(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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
6 July 21	s9(2)(a)	Copies of all briefings, aides memoire, emails, memos and Cabinet Papers (including draft Cabinet Papers) developed by the Border Sector Governance Group (BSGG) which in relation to maritime crew for the period 1 March 2020 to 1 June 2021.	Scoping

14. 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
Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IPC audits of MIQFs ongoing.• No high-risk findings identified for completed IPC audits.	-	-	-
Airports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly airport IPC assurance walk-through scheduled for July 2021. Dates for these audits are dependent on International flight schedules.• <u>Proposed dates:</u> <i>Auckland 12 July (Red and QFTZ)</i> <i>Wellington 13 July (QFTZ)</i> <i>Rongotai 13 July (Red)</i> <i>Christchurch 14 July (Red and QFTZ)</i> <i>Queenstown 19 July August (QFTZ)</i>	-	-	Revised QFT Health Operations Framework is with IPC sub TAG for review. Work has started on a Red Health Operations Framework.
Maritime/Ports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning continues to commence IPC assurance walk-throughs at maritime ports.• Draft assurance walk-through audit tool completed. Awaiting IPC review.	-	-	No changes to the PPE – IPC document that is currently posted on Maritime New Zealand’s website.

Proactively Released