

## Update: Tranche 2 International Mariners (including post-MIQ arrangements)

<b>DATE</b>	19 January 2021
<b>TO</b>	Nita Sullivan, Private Secretary – Minister for COVID-19 Response
<b>FROM</b>	Simon Sanders, Principal Advisor – Head of MIQ

### **BACKGROUND**

On 21 September 2020, Cabinet approved up to 570 deep-sea fishing crew to enter New Zealand to work on identified fishing vessels for up to six months. On 16 Oct 2020, the first tranche of the fishing crew arrived and entered managed isolation at the Sudima Christchurch. 31 subsequently testing positive for COVID-19 during their stay.

Time was allowed for an operational and health review of the first tranche to be completed before confirming an arrival date for the second tranche. This has enabled lessons learnt from tranche one to be implemented prior to tranche two's arrival.

On 03 December 2020, the Minister for COVID-19 Response approved the second tranche arrival date of 06 January 2021. At that time the group, comprised of 197 mariners, and were due arrived in Christchurch on 06 January 2021.

### **CHANGES MADE IN RESPONSE TO TRANCHE 1 AND THE LESSONS LEARNED REPORT**

Some of the key changes we made as a result of lessons learned include:

- The mariners all have individual rooms.
- The group had a COVID-19 test on the day of arrival so we knew their status as soon as possible and could respond accordingly.
- We identified all the smokers before they arrived and accommodated these guests in rooms that had an outdoor area (secure patio on a ground floor) or balcony; that way they can smoke without moving through corridors and congregating in a smoking area. They are staying across two Christchurch facilities to accommodate this.
- We have translators and interpreters available. Welcome Packs and signage were all translated into Russian and Ukrainian
- Information was provided prior to their arrival outlining what to expect while in managed isolation.
- We established a dedicated large group arrivals team within MIQ who work closely with other agencies to ensure comprehensive and integrated planning occurs for this and other large groups.
- We ensured all staff were well briefed and trained on any operational changes to their usual processes.

- We also made sure all the agencies involved in the planning and management of the second tranche clearly understand roles and responsibilities. That included working closely with the fishing companies.

### **OPERATION OVERVIEW**

On 6 January 2021 tranche two arrived at Christchurch International Airport with 189 crew on board. Eight of the mariners were unable to board due to COVID-19 positive results and other extenuating circumstances.

### **Managed Isolation Facilities**

The mariners were placed across two MIQFs – the Sudima and Commodore. They were placed in single rooms and all declared smokers were accommodated at the Commodore due to each room having a smoking balcony. The Sudima was experienced in hosting the first tranche and was able to accommodate specific requirements.

### **Current Positive Cases**

To date, there have been 10 acute (new) positive cases in the second tranche. Of the 10, 9 are in quarantine in the Commodore and 1 is in quarantine in the Sudima. Day 12 tests were completed yesterday with the results expected today.

### **Behaviour and compliance**

The CRIQ and CDHB have reported that the behaviour has been overwhelmingly positive, and have specifically noted that mariners have been very good to deal with. There have been no serious compliance issues reported.

### **POST-ISOLATION ARRANGEMENTS**

Once approved for release from managed isolation, the mariners will be transferred to their final destination in secure transport organised by MIQ. We have worked with the fishing companies to confirm arrangements post-isolation and to ensure all risk is carefully managed.

The transport to Lyttelton will not require any stops along the way. For the transport to Nelson, <sup>Commercial Information</sup> crew will depart the MIF at 1100 on Wednesday (subject to final health clearance) and the <sup>Commercial Inform</sup> crew will depart the MIF at 0200 on Thursday (subject to final health clearance).

The bus will have a 20 minute stop in Murchison for the bus driver. There is also a contingency stop for the bus driver in Culverden if required. The fishing companies are advising their crews that they are not to leave the bus during this stop. The bus will have toilet facilities, and lunch packs will be provided for the crew.

All fishing companies want their crew on the boats and out to sea as soon as possible. Some boats will leave directly for sea, some have time docked but all crew will be confined to the ships or the port. The specific details for each vessel are outlined below.

Company	Vessel	Vessel Location	Number	Vessel operations plan	Crew movement
Commercial Information	Commercial Information	Lyttelton	71	Vessel will be alongside for 10 days before sailing.	All crew on the vessel will be confined to the vessel after these crew arrive, for the time the vessel remains alongside, prior to commencing the first fishing trip (up to 10 days).
Commercial Information	Commercial Information	Lyttelton	2	Vessel is currently at sea and will continue fishing.	These two crew members will board the Commercial Information with her crew. These two crew will transfer to the Commercial Information at sea, and complete the remainder of the Commercial Information fishing trip.
Commercial Information	Commercial Information	Lyttelton	56	Vessel will be alongside for 10 days before sailing.	All crew on the Commercial Information will be confined to the vessel for the time the vessel remains alongside, prior to commencing the first fishing trip (up to 10 days).
Commercial Information	Commercial Information	Nelson	29	The vessel is in Nelson port for 40 hours before sailing.	Crew will disembark the bus directly onto the fishing vessel. They will not leave the vessel. During the 40 hours the vessel is alongside after the crew have embarked, all crew will be confined to the ship as well. The crew are only allowed to go to the wharf adjacent to their ship, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing for work related purposes. Once the vessel puts to sea, the voyage is expected to last for 3-4 weeks. While at sea, the crew will be monitored by the on-board doctor.
Commercial Information	Commercial Information	Nelson	8	The vessel sails for sea on the day of the crews arrival. The vessel is at sea for 3-4 weeks.	The crew will disembark the bus directly onto the fishing vessel. The vessel is expected to put to sea immediately. While at sea, the crew will be monitored by the on-board doctor
Commercial Information	Commercial Information	Nelson	14	Vessel will be at sea for approximately 14 days	Crew will disembark the MIQ bus at Port Nelson, and be transferred to another bus (driver wearing PPE) as a makeshift containment facility, while transfer to the vessel at sea is undertaken. The transfer of the crew to the Commercial Information will be completed by an independent contractor, who will observe level 4 Ministry of Health guidelines.
Commercial Information	Commercial Information	Nelson	9	Vessel will be at sea for approximately 14 days	Crew will disembark the MIQ bus at Port Nelson, and be transferred to another bus (driver wearing PPE) as a makeshift containment facility, while transfer to the vessel at sea is undertaken. The transfer of the crew to the Commercial Information will be completed by an independent contractor, who will observe level 4 Ministry of Health guidelines.

Please note, 12 mariners are unlikely to be released at the same time as the other mariners due to their positive COVID results or because they are close contacts. We are still working with the health officials and the fishing companies on the arrangements for these individuals and can provide a further update on this once it is confirmed. Individual transport plans are in place or are being developed for these crew. Seven of these cases (5 positive plus 2 close contacts) will be transported to Lyttelton upon release and will join their vessel. The remaining five will be driven to Nelson and are likely to be boat transferred straight out to sea to meet their vessel.

### **TRACKING AGAINST LESSON LEARNED REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Lessons Learned Report outlined 27 recommendations to support improvement in the system for the second tranche of mariners and for groups in general. Of the 27 recommendations, 20 specifically related to the second tranche of mariners and the remaining seven related to the wider MIQ approach to group arrivals.

MIQ Group Arrivals and Operations have worked closely with MIQ Risk and Assurance to track progress against these recommendations. This has included a visit by the Risk and Assurance team to the CRIQ to view and track the progress on the ground in real time. Risk and Assurance have indicated that all 20 recommendations associated with tranche 2 will be formally accepted and closed this week.

The final seven group-related recommendations are on track to be completed in February. A Group Arrivals team has now been established with new team members on board, which will support the completion.

The Lessons Learned Report is being prepared for proactive release and this will likely occur this week.