



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Chris Hipkins	Portfolio	COVID-19 Response
Title of Cabinet paper	Managed Isolation and Quarantine charges for temporary entry class visa holders and extension of charging for MIQ for returning New Zealanders	Date to be published	21 June 2021

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
15 February 2021	Managed Isolation and Quarantine charges for temporary entry class visa holders and extension of charging for MIQ for returning New Zealanders	Office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response
15 February 2021	CAB-21-MIN-0016, Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges for Temporary Entry Class Visa Holders	Cabinet Office
March 2021	Supplementary Analysis Report: Amendments to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Regulations 2020	MBIE
18 March 2021	COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2021	Office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response
18 March 2021	LEG-21-MIN-0028, COVID-19 Public Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2021	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the following reasons; Confidential advice entrusted to government, free and frank opinions, legal professional privilege, and confidential advice to government.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges for Temporary Entry Class Visa Holders

Portfolio **COVID-19 Response**

On 15 February 2021, following reference from the Cabinet Business Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) fee system aims to strike a balance between the protected rights of New Zealanders to enter New Zealand and having an economically sustainable public health response to COVID-19;
- 2 **noted** that Cabinet intended that the regulations relating to the MIQ fee system would be kept under regular review;
- 3 **noted** that under the current COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Regulations 2020, temporary entry class visa holders are liable for the standard MIQ fees unless they were ‘ordinarily resident’ in New Zealand at 19 March 2020 (and left at or before that time);
- 4 **agreed** that all temporary entry class visa holders be made liable for the MIQ fees of:
 - 4.1 \$4,800 (GST exclusive) for the first or only person in the room;
 - 4.2 \$2,600 (GST exclusive) for an additional adult in the same room;
 - 4.3 \$1,400 (GST exclusive) for an additional child (aged 3-17 years) in the same room;
- 5 **noted** that the above decision involves:
 - 5.1 the removal, from the relevant regulations, of the exemption from MIQ fees of temporary entry class visa holders who were ordinarily resident in New Zealand at 19 March 2020 (and left before that date); and
 - 5.2 setting within the regulations a separate fee level for temporary entry class visa holders (similar to what has been done for ‘other critical workers’);
- 6 **noted** that the Minister for COVID-19 Response does not intend to make critical health workers liable for the higher fee;

- 7 **noted** that:
- 7.1 as more time has passed, the international environment suggests MIQ will be needed for the foreseeable future;
- 7.2 with increasing MIQ costs to the government, the Minister for COVID-19 Response considers it appropriate that more people entering the country, including all temporary entry class visa holders, contribute to the costs of their MIQ stay;
- 8 **noted** that in September and December 2020, the Ministerial group considering class exceptions approved 250 PhD and postgraduate students, and 1,000 bachelor degree and above students to enter New Zealand;
- 9 **noted** that the current expectation across the International Education sector is that returning international students will pay \$2,696 (plus GST) towards MIQ costs;
- 10 **noted** that the above decision is intended to capture all temporary entry class visa holders, including international students, due to arrive in New Zealand after 25 March 2021;
- 11 **agreed** that the changes to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Regulations 2020 come into effect on 25 March 2021 before the first cohort of the bachelor degree (and above) students arrive in April 2021;
- 12 **noted** that all temporary entry class visa holders (other than ‘other critical workers’) will still be able to seek fee waivers, and that this issue will be considered as a part of the wider MIQ fees review;
- 13 **agreed in principle, subject to** paragraphs 14 and 15 below, to extend the minimum time that returning New Zealand citizens and permanent residents are required to remain in the country to be exempt from MIQ fees from 90 days to 180 days;
- 14 **authorised** the Attorney General and the Minister for COVID-19 Response to make final decisions in relation to the proposal in paragraph 13 above following further policy and legal advice;
- 15 **invited** the Minister for COVID-19 Response to report back to Cabinet on the final decisions referred to in paragraph 14 above, including the timing of when the change will come into effect and any transitional arrangements that may be necessary;

16 Confidential advice to Government

- 17 **noted** that the Minister for COVID-19 Response intends to progress minor and technical changes to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Regulations 2020 to ensure the exemptions from MIQ fees for New Zealanders continue to operate in the context of a safe travel zone;

Wider review of MIQ fees

- 18 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is undertaking a wider review of the MIQ fees system;

Legislative implications

- 19 **invited** the Minister for COVID-19 Response to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft regulations to give effect to the above proposals;
- 20 **authorised** the Minister for COVID-19 Response to make decisions on any matters, consistent with the policy proposals in the paper under CAB-21-SUB-0016 that may arise during the drafting process;

Communications

- 21 **noted** that a communications plan will be developed by officials in consultation with the office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response and other relevant agencies to ensure widespread awareness of amendments to the fees regime.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet