



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Kris Faafoi	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Border Exceptions Referred to Cabinet	Date to be published	7 March 2022

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
June 2021	Border Exceptions Referred to Cabinet	Office of the Minister of Immigration
8 June 2021	Border Exceptions CAB-21-MIN-0212	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / **NO** [select one]

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Information has been withheld under the following grounds:

- International Relations
- Confidential advice to Government
- Free and frank opinions.



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.

Border Exceptions

Portfolio Immigration

On 8 June 2021, Cabinet:

Early childhood, primary and secondary teachers

- 1 **agreed** to a class exception for up to 300 teachers (plus their partners and dependent children) over the next 12 months, including certificated early learning teachers and qualified teachers in State and State-integrated schools with the following eligibility criteria:
 - 1.1 employed in a Decile 1, Decile 2, or Decile 3 New Zealand State or State-integrated school/kura; OR
 - 1.2 employed in any “hard to staff” State or State-integrated school/kura; OR
 - 1.3 the position being filled is a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics role; OR
 - 1.4 teachers that were already employed in New Zealand but who left the country and are now unable to return to their positions due to the border closure; OR
 - 1.5 certificated early childhood education teacher employed in a low decile service (as measured by the health deprivation index 8-10);
- 2 **agreed** that the Ministry of Education will manage and prioritise the allocation to schools and early childhood education services, nominate the teachers to Immigration New Zealand by 30 June 2022, and report further to the Minister of Education about the prioritisation criteria and implementation approach;

Family reunification for onshore temporary visa holders working in teaching

- 3 **agreed** to establish a border exception for the partners and dependent children of temporary visa holders who are working as teachers in Early Childhood Education services or schools;

Dairy farm workers

- 4 **noted** that on 31 May 2021, Cabinet agreed to a border class exception of up to 150 dairy farm workers (plus their partners and dependent children) in management roles earning above \$79,500 per annum for Dairy Herd Manager roles and above \$92,000 per annum for Assistant Dairy Farm Manager or 2IC managerial roles, up until April 2022 [CAB-21-MIN-0196];

- 5 **agreed** to an additional class exception for 50 dairy farm assistants (plus their partners and dependent children) earning at or above the median wage in regions with acute shortages (e.g. Southland and Otago), up until April 2022;
- 6 **noted** that Border Ministers directed officials at the Ministry of Primary Industries and the Ministry of Social Development to undertake further work with the sector to attract New Zealanders to the entry-level dairy farm assistant roles;

Veterinarians

- 7 **noted** that on 31 May 2021, Cabinet agreed to a class exception for up to 50 general practice veterinarians (plus partners and dependent children) earning at or above \$85,000 per annum, over 12 months [CAB-21-MIN-0196];

Australians transiting New Zealand

- 8 **agreed** to create a new border exception to allow for up to 30 travellers per month (until the end of 2021) nominated by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to enter New Zealand and complete MIQ here, International relations

Replacement cargo crew servicing the Pacific

- 9 **agreed** to increase the cap to allow up to 550 replacement cargo crew servicing the Pacific to complete 14 days MIQ in New Zealand until 31 January 2022;

Replacement crew for foreign-flagged fishing vessels

- 10 **noted** that on 1 June 2021, Border Ministers agreed to increase the cap from up to 50 persons to 160 persons every six months on replacement international fishing crew for foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating in international waters (as identified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) to the government-approved programmes list;
- 11 **noted** that New Zealand's approach to border settings should be consistent with its international obligations and interests such as the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, United National Convention on the Law of the Sea and regional fisheries management organisations;

Implementing the border exceptions

- 12 **noted** that all of the individuals and their partners and dependent children (where applicable) who are eligible for the border exceptions above will be required to book space in managed isolation through the Managed Isolation Allocation System;
- 13 **noted** that any new class exceptions require implementation by the Minister of Immigration through certifying changes to Immigration Instructions, which may require further work on detailed eligibility requirements for applying the exception and changes to online forms, ICT systems and business processes.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet