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Briefing for Incoming Ministers: The Border Sector

Date:	9 November 2020	Priority:	Low
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2021-1212

Information for Minister

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Privacy of natural persons	Policy Director, Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) Unit	Privacy of natural persons	✓
	Policy Advisor		

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

Comments:

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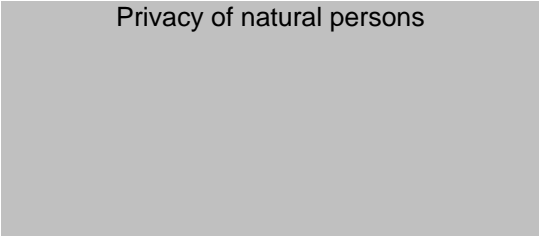
Briefing for Incoming Ministers: The Border Sector

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Purpose

To provide you with an introductory briefing on New Zealand's Border Sector, prepared by the Border Sector Governance Group (BSGG).

Privacy of natural persons



Policy Director, Managed Isolation and Quarantine Unit
MBIE

09 / 11 / 2020

Background

1. The Border Sector Governance Group (BSGG) is a Chief Executive forum established in 2007 recognising that policy and operational issues related to the border involve several agencies. The BSGG comprises the Chief Executives of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs), the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Ministry of Transport (MoT), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and The Treasury.

The BSGG have prepared an introductory briefing on New Zealand's border sector

2. The briefing provides contextual information on New Zealand's border, the activity undertaken by the operational agencies, their respective roles and the interconnections between them, and looks forward. It specifically notes the additional challenges arising from COVID-19 and outlines the border sector's response to these challenges.
3. The briefing is intended for incoming Ministers with operational or policy engagement at the border. This is relevant to you as the Minister responsible for the COVID-19 response, including Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ). The full briefing is contained in Annex One.
4. MIQ was not directly consulted but have been working closely with the BSGG to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the border and the role MIQ plays.

The briefing proposes that a Border Sector Executive Board be established under the new Public Service Act

5. The Public Service Act 2020 provides a legislative framework for achieving a more adaptive and collaborative Public Service unified by a common purpose, ethos and strengthened leadership. The BSGG is proposing the establishment of a Border Sector Executive Board under the Act.
6. The Board could provide increased oversight, assurance and governance over the border system, enable agencies to better align operations and planning, and provide a formal structure for long-term projects to improve border management with an ability to administer appropriations. It could also help provide more effective end-to-end system oversight and accountability for COVID-19 border risks. The BSGG suggest that there would be advantages in having a Minister responsible for the Board (this appointment would likely be made by the Prime Minister).
7. The BSGG will provide further advice and intend to discuss the establishment of an Executive Board with its Ministers in November/December 2020 with a view to seeking Cabinet's approval to proceed.

Annex

Annex One: Briefing for Incoming Ministers: The Border Sector

The link to the released briefing: <https://www.customs.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/oia/border-sector-governance-group---briefing-for-incoming-ministers.pdf>