



## AIDE MEMOIRE

### Talking points and papers – Border Exceptions Ministerial Group

<b>Date:</b>	16 March 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2021-2826

#### Information for Minister(s)

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**

#### Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Privacy of natural persons	Manager, Allocation and Supply	Privacy of natural persons	✓
	Senior Advisor, Allocation and Supply		

#### The following departments/agencies have been consulted

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#### Minister's office to complete:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn           |

#### Comments



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### Purpose

To provide you with talking points and papers for distribution for the upcoming Border Exceptions Ministerial Group on 17 March.

Privacy of natural persons

Manager, Allocation and Supply  
MIQ Policy, MBIE

16 / 03 / 21

### Border Exceptions Ministerial Group meeting

1. You are attending the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group on 17 March. The agenda is as below.

Agenda item	Lead	Timing
1 <b>Introduction: overview of border entrants</b>	Minister Faafoi	5 mins
2 <b>Managed isolation capacity and demand update</b>	Minister Hipkins	15 mins
3 <b>2021 border exceptions</b>	Minister Faafoi	10 mins
4 <b>Border exceptions for decision:</b> <i>Investment Attraction Strategy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NZTE Investment attraction addition to Government approved programme list</li><li>• Innovative partnerships addition to Government approved programme list</li><li>• Constitutional conventions</li></ul>	Minister Faafoi	10 mins

	<i>Confirming the Antarctic programme on the government to government agreement list for the 2021/2022 season</i>		
5	<b>Group allocations for decision</b>	Minister Hipkins	20 mins

2. You are leading item two and item five. Talking points for these items are provided at Annex One.
3. This will be the first time this group considers group allocation requests. Officials have provided a draft letter on this process for you to send to your Ministerial colleagues [2021-2674 refers]. We understand Minister Fafoi may wish to discuss this letter during the meeting.
4. Annex Two is a summary of all the requests being considered at this meeting, both class exceptions and group allocations, for your reference.
5. Annexes Three and Four are:
  - a. Our most up-to-date charts on MIAS room utilisation and approved group allocations
  - b. Group allocation EOIs and assessment templates for the US and Italian Antarctic Programmes; pre- and post- Olympic travel; and NZDF Operation Whio
6. These are intended for distribution to all members of the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group.

## **Annexes**

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Annex One: Talking points

Annex Two: Summary of requests for consideration

Annex Three: MIAS room utilisation and approved group allocations

Annex Four: Summary of group allocation requests

## **Annex One: Talking points**

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### **Managed isolation capacity**

The Talking Points in this section are about managed isolation capacity which were prepared and offered by MBIE/MIQ, but they do not necessarily represent messages that the Minister for Covid-19 Response accepted or ever used.

### **Group allocations process**

The Talking Points in this section are about group allocations process which were prepared and offered by MBIE/MIQ, but they do not necessarily represent messages that the Minister for Covid-19 Response accepted or ever used.

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### **Group allocation requests for consideration**

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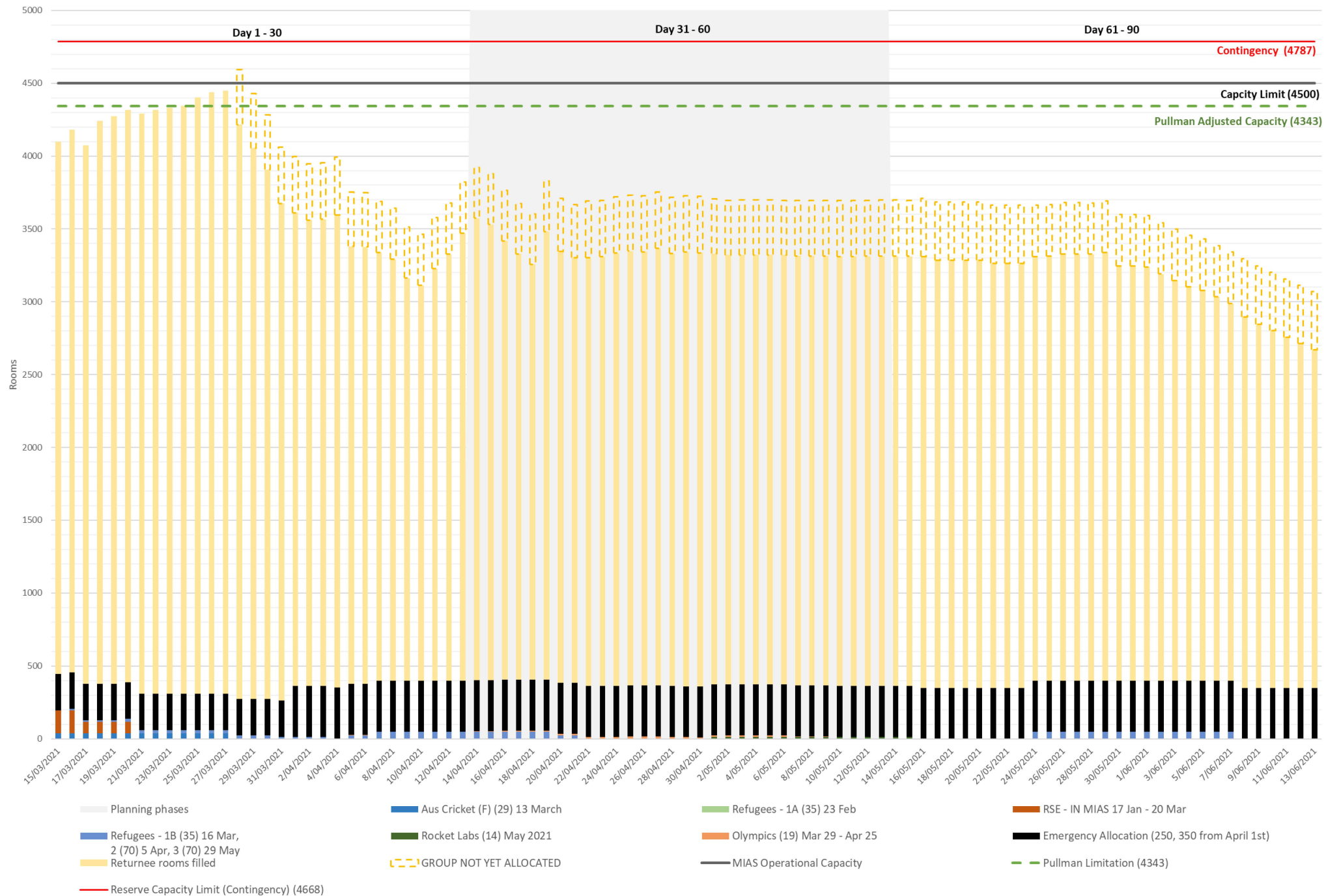
## Annex Two: Summary of requests for consideration

Proposal	Immigration Comment	MIQ Comment
<i>Border exceptions</i>		
Investment Attraction Strategy (approx. 200 entrants)	Support addition of Innovative partnerships and NZTE Investment Attraction Programme to Government approved programme list	Not suitable for group allocation, should book through MIAS.
Constitutional conventions		Not suitable for group allocation, should book through MIAS.
<i>Group allocation requests</i>		
NZDF Operation Whio (45 entrants, 4 June 2021)	N/A	Suitable for group allocation. Can be accommodated on the date requested.
Pre-Olympics travel (157 entrants, May-July 2021)	May be some members who do not have right to re-enter New Zealand. Consider options to enable re-entry.	Not suitable for group allocation, should book through MIAS.
Post-Olympics travel (600-700 entrants, August-September 2021)		Suitable for group allocation, scaling and sequencing will be necessary. Group demands in July/August/September exceeds group allocation capacity.
US and Italian Antarctic Programmes (approx. 1300 entrants, August 2021-February 2022)	Confirm Antarctic programme on Government-to-government list.	Suitable for group allocation, scaling and sequencing will be necessary. Group demands in July/August/September exceeds group allocation capacity.

## **Annex Three: MIAS Room utilisation and approved group allocations**



Daily MIAS Room Utilisation Chart - Incl Estimated Operational Impacts (Approved Groups) at 15-03-2021





## **Annex Four: Summary of group allocation requests**

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## Border Exceptions Ministerial Group meeting 17 March 2021: Summary of Expression of Interests for Group Allocation in MIQ High Level Assessment

	NZDF	USAP	Olympics & Paralympics travel: Part A	Olympics & Paralympics travel: Part B
<b>Summarise the group request, including purpose of visit, arrival date(s) and number of people</b>	Operation WHIO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overseas Military deployment – RNZAF maritime surveillance of Asia Pacific region</li> <li>- Two cohorts arriving into NZ on military aircraft on 4 June – must leave Japan by specified date</li> </ul>	Antarctic Programme operations 2021/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USA &amp; Italian Programmes</li> <li>- Minimum of 11 military and charter flights from August 2021 to Jan/Feb 2022</li> </ul>	Pre-games qualification for 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for travel to qualification events, as well as some training and pre-camp</li> <li>- Also includes small number of pax related to winter Olympics (snow sport)</li> <li>- Requesting the ability to train in their room (eg, strength &amp; conditioning, bikes, treadmills, rowing machines), but state that the ideal would be on and off site training</li> </ul>	Bulk return of delegation from the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Propose delegation split into several large groups</li> <li>- Requesting some in-room training</li> </ul>
<b>Number of people</b>	- 45	1,300 arriving across six months - between 100 and 400 people arriving each month	- 157 individuals - arriving in small groups across May – July 2021, the majority are groups of between 1 and 5 people	- 500-600 Olympics (August) - 100 Paralympics (September)
<b>Sponsoring agency and priority</b>	NZDF International Obligation (United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR))	MFAT New Zealand Antarctic responsibilities	- Sport NZ - The Olympics and Paralympics are Minister Robertson’s top priority for Sport (alongside the Rugby World Cup 2021 which has been postponed to 2022)	- Sport NZ - The Olympics and Paralympics are Minister Robertson’s top priority for Sport (alongside the Rugby World Cup 2021 which has been postponed to 2022)
<b>Do they meet the criteria?</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Should they be considered for manual allocation?</b>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>MIQ Operations comments</b>	From an MIQ operational perspective this is a simple request to accommodate due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- standard MIQ</li> <li>- certainty around dates</li> <li>- no impact on MIQ workforce.</li> </ul> <p>Military flights are beneficial as they enable a group to be directed to a specific location (eg, outside of Auckland) which allows more efficient use of MIQ allocation.</p>	While these groups require standard MIQ, from an MIQ operational perspective this is a complex request to accommodate due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- significant number of large groups over an extended period of time</li> <li>- group allocation already being oversubscribed over a number of months which will require sequencing of arrivals and a limit on group numbers (without knowing full potential pipeline of requests).</li> </ul> <p>The proposed numbers are a significant increase in personnel relative to last year and may require consideration of scaling to essential personnel.</p> <p>Charter and military flights are beneficial as they enable a group to be directed to a specific location (eg, outside of Auckland) which allows more efficient use of MIQ allocation.</p>	From an MIQ operational perspective this is a complex request to accommodate due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- being completely outside the intent of the group allocation process with multiple small groups (many less than 5 people) over multiple dates with different needs</li> <li>- the sporting environment being very fluid and date and location changes having a high likelihood</li> <li>- request for in-room training MIQ for athletes – note that this may not be available due to room size and health and safety constraints.</li> <li>- lack of certainty around dates and limited information.</li> </ul> <p>There is a risk of setting a precedent by allocating spaces for individual and small groups, such as for returning students.</p> <p>The EOI also includes snow sport contestants which is not relevant for pre-summer Olympic &amp; Paralympic games qualification travel which this EOI covers.</p>	From an MIQ operational perspective this is a complex request to accommodate due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Size of groups</li> <li>- Lack of certainty around dates</li> <li>- Need to sequence arrivals to ensure MIQ is not pushed past safe operating limits and there are no BORA implications due to displacement of returning New Zealander’s</li> </ul> <p>Note that any allocation can only consider essential athletes and support staff – other parts of the delegation need to use MIAS.</p>
<b>MIQ Health comments</b>	No red flags or known issues from a Health perspective	No red flags or known issues from a Health perspective	From a Health perspective: There are a number of factors yet to be identified, however we expect there will be a high level of compliance from this group.  We expect the majority will have low health needs, however, due to the changing nature of COVID-19 this cannot be known until closer to arrival time.  Need further information to understand potential health needs of Paralympian’s.  These small groups and individuals will not be eligible for Health exemptions to training outside of their rooms, either on or off-site.	From a Health perspective: There are a number of factors yet to be identified, however a high level of compliance from these individuals is expected. The Paralympian’s are expected to have high health needs.  Due to the changing nature of COVID-19 specific testing regimes cannot be known until closer to arrival time