



BRIEFING

Response to out-of-cycle group allocation request for the Cricket World Cup 2022

Date:	9 June 2021	Priority:	High
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2021-4088

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response	Send the letter at Annex One to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Minister of Economic Development	11 June 2021

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Privacy of natural persons	Manager, Allocation and Supply	Privacy of natural persons		✓
Privacy of natural persons	Senior Advisor, Allocation and Supply			

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

Comments



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Response to out-of-cycle group allocation request for the Cricket World Cup 2022

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Purpose

To provide advice on, and a draft response to, the letter from the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Minister of Economic Development requesting an out-of-cycle group allocation for the Cricket World Cup 2022.

Executive summary

1. The Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Minister of Economic Development have written to you to request an early decision on a group allocation for the women's Cricket World Cup 2022, as well as early confirmation on where players will undergo MIQ.
2. You have previously decided not to make any early group allocation decisions so Ministers can review all applications together in packages. You have brought the packages decision-making meeting forward to early July to enable early decision-making.
3. MIQ officials have not yet received an Expression of Interest (EOI) for this request and need more information to determine how it could be accommodated and what compromises may need to be made, particularly in terms of scaling and staggering entry of teams and officials. We expect to receive this EOI by 11 June.
4. Confirmation of MIQ location will be possible following Ministers' decision on a group allocation package, as it will be determined by system-wide demands and the needs of each group.
5. Officials have drafted a reply to Minister Robertson and Nash's letter declining to consider this request early. This is attached at Annex One.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** you have previously informed your colleagues that you will not be accepting any out-of-cycle group allocations requests.

Noted

- b **Agree** not to consider the Cricket World Cup's out-of-cycle group allocation request.

Agree Disagree

- c **Agree** to send the attached letter to Minister Robertson and Minister Nash notifying them of your decision.

Agree Disagree

d **Agree** not to proactively release this briefing as this issue remains under active consideration.

Agree / Disagree

Privacy of natural persons

Manager, Allocation and Supply
MIQ Policy, MBIE

9 / 06 / 21



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

21 / 06 / 21

Background

6. You recently agreed to an updated group allocation criteria and process, and shortly after agreed not to consider group allocation requests outside the process (briefing 2021-3639). All group allocation requests for the period November 2021-March 2022 will be considered by Border Ministers in early July.
7. The Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister of Economic Development have written to you requesting an out-of-cycle group allocation decision for the Women's Cricket World Cup (CWC), which is due to take place in New Zealand in February/March 2022.

Cricket World Cup request

8. The Cricket World Cup was scheduled to take place in New Zealand in 2021 but due to the pandemic, was postponed for a year. It is a government Major Event and has received government funding both for the initial event and to support the event's postponement.
9. The event involves the participation of seven international cricket teams (plus New Zealand's team) and a number of tournament officials, sponsors, media and additional participants. A total of 772 people will be seeking to enter the country for the Cricket World Cup.
10. The out-of-cycle request you have received requests MIQ space for 289 people: 155 athletes and team officials and 134 other tournament officials. The letter states that all 289 people meet the criteria for group allocation. As MIQ officials have not received an Expression of Interest (EOI) for this request, we are unable to confirm this. At this stage it is likely that 155 people (the five cricket teams) will meet the criteria but it is less clear whether the other tournament officials will – they may not be arriving as a single unit and will not have bespoke training requirements that would preclude them from using MIAS.
11. The letter also requests an early decision on which region the cricket teams will go into MIQ in order to finalise off-site training arrangements. MBIE determines the most suitable region and managed isolation facility (or facilities) by considering the needs of the group in question, their risk profile, as well as other groups in MIQ at the same time and wider system pressures.
12. When a group allocation package has been agreed by the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group, officials will be able to confirm where each group will undergo MIQ.

Decision not to consider out-of-cycle requests

13. You decided not to consider out-of-cycle group allocations, a decision that has been communicated to your Ministerial colleagues and their agencies. Officials do not consider anything in this request that makes a strong case for reconsidering this approach, and therefore recommend you reply to Minister Nash and Minister Robertson declining to consider the request urgently, and noting that it will be considered alongside other requests in early July.
14. Officials expect to receive the group allocation Expression of Interest (EOI) by 11 June. Until it is received, MIQ officials do not have adequate information to assess the request and provide a recommendation. We will be able to provide you with an early indication of the package and key tradeoffs by late June.
15. We are aware of some issues that are likely to arise with this application. For example:
 - a. The group allocation request is for 289 people, but MIQ does not have any visibility of people included in the request who are not team members (and therefore do not require bespoke arrangements). Further information is needed on the 134 other

tournament officials to determine whether they meet the group allocation criteria and whether they are critical for the event to proceed.

- b. The suggested arrival schedule is not operationally feasible : five teams cannot be accommodated simultaneously given their likely risk profile and training needs. We have never facilitated the training of more than one cricket team at one time. Each team would require its own transport, security staff and on-site nurse in order to maintain separate bubbles, which would place significant strain on MIQ resource. At most, MIQ **may** be able to accommodate two teams training at once, but further operational planning needs to be done before this can be confirmed.
 - c. The suggested off-site training set-up is not compliant with infection prevention control (IPC) requirements.
16. It is likely that a compromise can be arrived at for some of these issues, but further work is necessary before MIQ officials can determine whether and how this request could be accommodated. This work will be completed by early July and will inform officials' advice to Border Ministers.
17. January and February are likely to be months of high demand for group allocations. We are already aware of requests from other cricket teams and from the US and European Antarctic programmes for space in MIQ over this period. Officials need to assess all requests in relation to each other in order to determine how they can be accommodated.

Next steps

18. Officials have drafted a response letter in reply to Ministers Robertson and Nash declining to consider their request (attached at Annex One).
19. The EOI application period for groups proposing to arrive between November 2021 and March 2022 closes on Friday 11 June. Officials will begin preparing packages once all EOIs are received and will share preliminary packages and key tradeoffs with you and Minister Faafoi at your meeting in late June.
20. The Border Exceptions Ministerial Group will meet in early July to decide on the final group allocation package.

Annexes

Annex One: Draft response letter

Annex One: Draft response letter

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Hon Grant Robertson
Minister for Sport and Recreation

Hon Stuart Nash
Minister for Economic and Regional Development

Request for consideration of out of round group managed isolation allocation for the Women's Cricket World Cup 2022.

Dear Ministers

I have received your letter of 2 June and considered your request for an out-of-cycle group allocation decision and early confirmation of MIQ location for this group.

As we discussed at the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group meeting recently, demand for space in the group allocation is likely to exceed spaces available over the summer months. Considering all group allocation requests together is important to enable us to make strategic decisions in how the space is best allocated.

For this reason, I have decided not to consider any out-of-cycle group allocation requests, including the Women's Cricket World Cup.

I recognise that this request, and other requests I am aware of, are seeking the certainty of an early decision on their application. I have brought the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group's decision-making meeting forward to early July to provide a decision as soon as possible.

I understand your need for early confirmation of the location where participants will be undertaking MIQ in order to prepare suitable training facilities. Confirmation of MIQ location for groups will be possible following confirmation of the final group allocation package.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', representing Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins

Minister for COVID-19 Response