



AIDE MEMOIRE

Decommissioning the Ramada hotel as an MIQ facility

Date:	30 April 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2321-3503

Information for Minister(s)
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response

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

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Withdrawn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



AIDE MEMOIRE

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Purpose

This aide memoire advises you that we will be progressing with decommissioning the Ramada as a MIF [briefing 2021-3193 refers]. This is because the Ramada is no longer required for its established MIF purpose (accommodating deportees from Australia arriving on '501' flights) and no other agency wishes to utilise the Ramada for staffing purposes.

Kara Isaac
General Manager, MIQ Policy
Managed Isolation & Quarantine, MBIE

30.4.21

Update

Context

1. The Ramada Auckland is a 42 room facility that has been used as a MIF for '501' (deportee) flights from Australia. With the commencement of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia, the last cohort of deportees departed the Ramada on Thursday, 14 April, and a dedicated facility for these returnees is no longer required.
2. The Ramada is not suitable for use as a general purpose MIQ facility due to its lack of onsite kitchen facilities, small number of rooms and tight footprint (leaving little space for additional services necessary to support a MIF).
3. Officials previously advised that we would explore further uses for the Ramada for the MIQ network, in particular to provide accommodation for Defence Force or Health staff. However, if none could be identified then MIQ would move to decommission the facility [briefing 2021-3193 refers].

Outcome

4. That review has now been completed, and no further need for the facility have been identified with both Health and Defence declining its use for staff accommodation. We therefore will be decommissioning the Ramada as a MIF.

Timeline

5. MIQ's current contract with the Ramada runs until 31 July 2021. We also have an option to "Terminate for Convenience" on 90 calendar days-notice.
6. Our intention is to exercise this right to terminate today (Friday 30 April), which will then expire on 28 July 2021.
7. Once termination has been communicated to the hotel management we will discuss with them whether we are able to retain exclusive use during the transition period, and seek an agreement to be able to re-contract with them if QFT was to cease for a prolonged period of time before the end of the notice period and we needed to stand-up a dedicated 'deportee' facility.

Staff and equipment

8. There are no security, Health or NZDF staff currently on site. The MBIE Operations and Site Security manager has been redeployed to the Grand Mercure hotel.
9. There is a small amount of equipment (printers, laptops etc) currently in the Ramada, as well as fencing. This will be removed from the facility, along with ensuring that all confidential information is returned or destroyed.
10. The Ramada also has CCTV equipment installed by MBIE as part of its operation as a MIF, valued at around \$105,000 (including installation and software). The hotel operator has the option to retain this equipment (at no expense), otherwise MBIE will remove it as part of the decommissioning process.

Costs

11. As well as incidental staff time to remove equipment and reinstate any alterations made to the property, there is a fixed closed down fee of \$6,510 + GST, calculated on the number of rooms and their unoccupied room rate.
12. We will also need to continue to pay the unoccupied room rate for the duration of the notice period.

Publicity

13. We intend to make a media statement publicly thanking the Ramada and its staff for their service as part of the MIQ network. MIQ Comms will work with your office and the Ramada to co-ordinate this statement.