



## AIDE MEMOIRE

### Talking Points for COVID-19 Minister

<b>Date:</b>	12 April 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Urgent
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2021-3194

#### 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 Policy, MIQ		Privacy of natural persons ✓

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

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

#### 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 Withdrawn           |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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## Talking Points for COVID-19 Minister

<b>Date:</b>	12 April 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Urgent
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### Purpose

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Response to Ministers' Office request for briefing notes for Cabinet meeting for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

- An update on Wellington Airport
- An update on upcoming advice on sequencing group arrivals from June-October
- An update on Grand Mercure

Kara Isaac  
**General Manager Policy MIQ**  
MIQ, MBIE

8.04.2021

## **Update on Wellington Airport**

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- There are increasing challenges with MIQ processing charter flights arrivals at Wellington airport.
- At the moment air charter transfers are processed through the RNZAF Air Movements terminal on the western apron as Wellington Airport is not allowing MIQ to access any of its facilities or main domestic and international terminals on the eastern apron.
- As the Air Movements terminal has capacity constraints, only a limited number of passengers can arrive on charter flights to Wellington. In addition, Air Movements would need to continue to service NZDF operated green flights from the 19th of April 2021, as well as continuing to support MIQ air charter transfers to Wellington MIFs. Ongoing dual red/green use would need a MoH waiver and NZDF approval which may not be forthcoming.

## **Update on upcoming advice on sequencing group arrivals from June-October**

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- Officials will be shortly providing Border Exceptions Ministers advice on how to use space in the group allocation between June and October.
- The number of requests for MIQ group allocations exceeds the number of rooms set aside for this purpose between June and October. In order for Ministers to make strategic decisions and trade-offs between government priorities, officials are preparing a new way of providing advice on group allocation requests.
- Rather than provide advice on requests as they are received, officials have used the pipeline of demand to prepare a number of 'packages' of requests that would fully utilise the spaces set aside for the group allocation.
- The benefits of this approach include providing certainty to groups seeking space in the group allocation, giving Ministers the visibility of trade-offs that need to be made, providing MIQ sufficient lead-in time for planning to support these groups, and standardising this process to reduce ad hoc and urgent requests.
- Because of the increase in demand for the group allocation, and the reduction in demand on MIAS because of the introduction of the QFTZ, officials will recommend raising the group allocation to 400, and temporarily increasing it to 500 for August and September.
- Officials understand that the priority groups for the June-October period are RSE workers, travel back from the Olympics, and the US Antarctic programme.

## **Update on Grand Mercure**

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- There are three investigations underway into the incident at the Grand Mercure.
- The onsite testing of the ventilation system by an Independent Qualified Person (IQP) has commenced this week with results expected around the 12th of April 2021.
- The next Technical Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for the 13th of April 2021 and will consider any Grand Mercure findings.