



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Michael Wood	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	<i>Decisions on border class exceptions and border entry settings</i>	Date to be published	18 August 2022

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
26 November 2021	<i>2122-1754 Border Exception Ministers – Meeting 9</i>	<i>MBIE</i>
December 2021	<i>Decisions on border class exceptions and border entry settings</i>	<i>Office of the Minister of Immigration</i>
6 December 2021	<i>CAB-21-MIN-0517 Minute</i>	<i>Cabinet Office</i>

Information redacted

YES / NO

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Some information has been withheld for the reasons of international relations, privacy of natural persons, constitutional conventions, commercial information, and free and frank opinions



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Decisions on Border Class Exceptions and Border Entry Settings

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 6 December 2021, Cabinet:

Border exception proposals for approval


- 1 **agreed** to a class exception for up to 600 specialist tech sector workers (plus partners and dependent children) over 12 months, who meet the following criteria:
 - 1.1 the worker is coming to New Zealand for a role in one of the following occupations:
 - 1.1.1 Software and Application Programmers (ANZSCO 2613 and related synonyms); or
 - 1.1.2 ICT Managers (ANZSCO 1351 and related synonyms); or
 - 1.1.3 ICT Security Specialists (ANZSCO 2621 and related synonyms); or
 - 1.1.4 Multimedia Specialists (ANZSCO 2612 and related synonyms); and
 - 1.2 salary must be over a particular threshold:
 - 1.2.1 NZ\$120,000 per annum for ANZSCO 2613, 1351 and 2621; or
 - 1.2.2 NZ\$95,000 per annum for ANZSCO 2612;
- 2 **agreed** to a class exception for up to 180 external auditors (plus partners and dependent children), over 12 months, who are earning at least:
 - 2.1 \$70,000 per annum for auditors with two to three years' relevant experience;
 - 2.2 \$85,000 per annum for auditors with at least four years' relevant experience;
- 3 **agreed** to a class exception for up to 15 halal slaughterers (plus partners and dependent children), who are earning at least 1.5 times the median wage (\$40.50 per hour);
- 4 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration and the Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities to take final decisions on the class exception for halal slaughterers, subject to being confident that the wage guarantee of 1.5 times the median wage (\$40.50 per hour) will be enforced;

- 5 **agreed** to remove the split in the dairy worker class exception and increase the wage requirement from the median wage (\$27 per hour) to the median wage plus \$1 (\$28 per hour) for dairy farm assistants;
- 6 **agreed** to a class exception for up to 200 rural contractors provided the sector guarantees the class exception workers and New Zealanders of similar skill and experience a wage rate of at least the median wage (\$27 per hour, which is an increase from the previous guarantee of \$25.50 per hour);
- 7 **agreed** to a class exception for up to:
- 7.1 40 shearers with entry in time for the 2022/23 peak shearing season; and
- 7.2 50 wool handlers, with at least one season's experience in a similar jurisdiction and paid at least \$30 per hour, with entry in time for the 2022/23 peak shearing season;
- 8 **agreed** to a class exception for up to 450 BATM-class deep-sea fishing crew to enter in April and May 2022;
- 9 **authorised** the Ministers for COVID-19 Response, Immigration, and Oceans and Fisheries to finalise a MIQ group allocation or alternative isolation arrangements for the class exception for up to 450 BATM-class deep-sea fishing crew to enter in April and May 2022;
- 10 **agreed** to a class exception for up to 615 BATM and non-BATM-class deep-sea fishing crew to enter in September and October 2022;
- 11 **agreed** to a 12-month extension to the existing border exception to allow for up to 30 travellers per month nominated by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to enter New Zealand and complete MIQ here, [REDACTED] International relations [REDACTED] from 1 January 2022;
- 12 **agreed** to a 12-month extension to the existing border exception to enable up to 550 cargo crew servicing the Pacific to undertake isolation in New Zealand, from 1 February 2022;
- 13 **agreed** to widen the existing border exception for replacement cargo crew, to cover all commercial ships, but excluding crew who intend to work in New Zealand rather than immediately departing (e.g., fishers);
- 14 **agreed** that students entering New Zealand under the third class exception for up to 1,000 international students be required to have NZD\$20,000.00 per annum (or \$1,667.00 per month) available to maintain themselves during their stay in New Zealand (less prepaid living expenses), and sufficient funds available to pay for the costs of MIQ, if subject to pay for these costs;
- 15 **agreed** that, unless otherwise specified, any class exceptions approved by Cabinet will be implemented in early-2022;

Changes to border entry settings for residence-class visa holders

- 16 **agreed** to remove the current restriction that prevents first time resident visa holders who have been granted a resident visa offshore but not yet activated it, from travelling to New Zealand, noting that this means residence processing will recommence for all offshore applicants;

Constitutional conventions



Other decisions of the Ministerial Group for Border Exceptions

- 21 **noted** the other decisions made by the Ministerial Group for Border Exceptions on 30 November 2021, as set out in Appendix A to the paper under CAB-21-SUB-0517, including the additions to the government approved events list and MIQ group allocations.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet