



BRIEFING

Introduction of new criteria for time-sensitive travel in November and December 2021

Date:	1 October 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-1227

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response	Agree to include the new time-sensitive travel criteria in the current round of time-sensitive travel, for travel in November and December 2021	7 October 2021

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

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

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 Withdrawn |



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Purpose

This briefing seeks your agreement to include the new time-sensitive travel (TST) criteria for travel in November and December 2021, rather than introducing it for January 2022 onwards.

Recommended action

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

- a **Note** that you recently agreed to introduce new criteria for time-sensitive travel and that this would come into effect for travel from January 2022 onwards.

Noted

- b **Agree** to introduce the new criteria - preventing 'lasting damage to New Zealand's substantial economic interests' and 'significant disruption to government research programmes' - as new eligibility pathways for TST for the November/December TST round.

Agree / Disagree

- c **Note** that introducing the new criteria early will ensure that high priority screen production applications will be eligible for the November/December 2021 TST round.

Noted

Privacy of natural persons

Manager, Allocation and Supply
MIQ Policy, MBIE

1 / 10 / 2021

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

12 / 10 / 2021
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Background

1. On 17 September, you agreed to update the time-sensitive travel allocation, following a review of its settings. These updates include changes to the criteria, increasing the size of the allocation, and clarifying the intent of some of the criteria [briefing 2122-0627 refers].
2. The immediate changes are clarifying that:
 - a. TST work could take place outside of New Zealand;
 - b. Criteria 1(d) includes individuals returning to New Zealand on the completion of national security, national interest or law enforcement duties overseas; and
 - c. Criteria 3 means no alternative is available “to enable the work to take place”
3. The changes for January 2022 onwards are:
 - a. Increasing the size of the allocation from 100 to 200 rooms per fortnight
 - b. Introducing new criteria for economic work, and for partly/fully government-funded research programmes
 - c. Dividing the criteria into two tiers, with the economic and scientific criteria in the second tier. The first tier is prioritised over the second tier.
4. The full TST criteria, with the agreed changes, is provided in **Annex One**.

There are economic applications for the current round

5. In the current round, MBIE has received three TST applications for screen productions, requesting a total of ten rooms. They are for:
 - a. Lord of the Rings post-production
 - b. Cowboy Bebop
 - c. Sweet Tooth
6. These applications would fit within the new economic criteria, but this new criteria is not set to come into effect until the next TST round. As such, they will be declined for not being eligible to apply.
7. We recommend introducing the updates to the criteria immediately, so that these screen productions are eligible to apply for travel in November/December 2021.
8. Introducing the new criteria for the current round does raise issues of equity, as other economic or scientific projects would not have had the opportunity to apply for the TST round. There is a risk that the decision will be perceived negatively by those who would have applied during this round. However, all submitted applications will be treated equally according to the agreed criteria.

Next steps

9. If you agree to introduce the criteria early, then we will update the website accordingly.

Annexes

Annex One: Changes to the TST criteria

Annex One: Changes to the TST Criteria

TST Criteria

Note: the changes are in bold below.

Criteria 1.1:

The individual's entry or return to New Zealand is required to enable work (**whether or not the work is located in New Zealand**) that is essential for:

Either:

- a) The continued operation or construction of critical infrastructure or lifeline utilities, which are of regional or national significance, in New Zealand or specified Pacific Islands (the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Samoa and Tonga); OR
- b) The continued operation of supply chains of regional or national significance for New Zealand or specified Pacific Islands (the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Samoa and Tonga); OR
- c) A critical health and disability service that is not, or soon will not be, practicably accessible for a local community or region in New Zealand or specified Pacific Islands (the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Samoa and Tonga); OR
- d) New Zealand's national security, obligations under international law or international relations, **including on the completion of national security, national interest or law enforcement duties overseas.**

OR

Criteria 1.2

The individual's entry or return to New Zealand is required to enable work (whether or not the work is located in New Zealand) that is essential for:

- a) **Preventing lasting damage to New Zealand's substantial economic interests.**
For the avoidance of doubt applications made under 1.2(a) may include both preserving New Zealand's existing areas of economic strength and enabling new initiatives to transition New Zealand to a more productive, sustainable and inclusive economy.
- b) **preventing significant disruption to government-funded, or partially government-funded, research programmes.**

AND

Criteria 2:

There will be significant consequences, whether human, social, environmental, economic or for New Zealand's international relations, unless the individual is guaranteed entry or return to New Zealand within the next allocation window.

Criteria 3:

No reasonable alternative is available **to enable the work to take place.**