



BRIEFING

Managed isolation – workshop with the business sector

Date:	5 January 2022	Priority:	High
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-2275

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Acting Minister for COVID-19 Response	Note that you have asked the Chief Executive of MBIE to convene a workshop with the business sector to discuss issues faced by exporters because of the border settings Agree to the participants and timing of the workshop	6 January 2022

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Andrew Milne	Acting DCE, MIQ	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Kara Isaac	GM, MIQ Policy		

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Withdrawn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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Managed isolation – workshop with the business sector

Date:	5 January 2022	Priority:	High
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Purpose

You have asked the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment to convene a workshop to engage with selected stakeholders on current border settings and the work undertaken on these in late 2021 and discuss the issues faced by exporters. This briefing outlines our proposed agenda for the workshop and seeks your high-level agreement to the participants.

Recommended action

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

- a **Note** that on 5 January 2022, you wrote to Sir Ian Taylor responding to concerns he raised about the impact that the border settings have had on exporters and informed him that you have asked the Chief Executive of MBIE to convene a workshop with a range of stakeholders.

Noted

- b **Agree** that the purpose of the workshop is to engage with selected stakeholders on current border settings and the work undertaken on these in late 2021 and discuss the issues faced by exporters and to scope out what, if any, further work is required.

Agree/ Disagree

- c **Note** that there is a specific offline MIQ allocation for exporters approved by Border Exceptions Ministers and administered by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) and that further information on this will be provided to you tomorrow.

Noted

- d **Agree** that representatives from the following agencies or organisations are invited to participate in the workshop:

- i. Ministry of Health (Public Health)
- ii. Aviation sector
- iii. Special Advisors (e.g. Rob Fyfe and Sir Brian Roche)
- iv. Self-isolation trial participants (2-4 from large companies and SMEs)
- v. Employers and Manufacturers Association
- vi. Business New Zealand
- vii. Sir Ian Taylor
- viii. Other government agencies (e.g. New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, border agencies)

Agree/ Disagree

- e **Note** that we will contact proposed participants this week to determine the earliest practicable date that the workshop could take place with appropriate senior attendance.

Noted

- f **Agree** that the high-level agenda be:

- i. Public health update (Public Health)
- ii. Briefing on joint government and industry future borders work undertaken late 2021 (Customs and Auckland Airport)
- iii. Evaluation of Self-Isolation Pilot and end-to-end view of the proposed self-isolation pathway (MBIE)
- iv. Recap of “#151 off the bench” initiative (Sir Ian Taylor)
- v. Observations from offshore travel (other participants)
- vi. Discussion of border scenarios moving forward (facilitated)
- vii. Next steps

Agree / Disagree / See comments

- f **Agree** that this briefing be proactively released with appropriate withholdings under the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree



Andrew Milne
Acting Deputy Secretary
MIQ, MBIE

5 / 1 / 2021

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister for COVID-19 Response

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Background

1. We understand Sir Ian Taylor has approached you to discuss the issues faced by exporters as a result of our current border settings.
2. On 5 January 2022, you wrote to Sir Ian responding to the concerns he raised with you and noted his points about the certainty needed for exporters. In your response, you informed Sir Ian that you have asked the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to convene a workshop with the officials and business partners that were involved in the Self-Isolation Pilot and the design of a bespoke MIQ model, as soon as the essential participants are available.
3. We note that there has been an MIQ allocation available for exporters since November 2021, which was approved by Border Exceptions Ministers and is administered by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE). To date this allocation has been consistently underutilised (for example, for January only 9 out of 30 rooms have been allocated by NZTE). We will provide you with further information on this offline allocation tomorrow.

Workshop with the business sector

Purpose

4. We propose that the purpose of the workshop is to engage with selected stakeholders on current border settings and the work undertaken on these in late 2021 as well as an opportunity to discuss and work through the various issues that the business sector has faced. The workshop will also scope out whether and what further work is required.
5. It is important that the workshop takes into account the current context and public communications that the Government made on 21 December. It will also need to recognise the delay to Reconnecting New Zealanders timeframes until late February (at the earliest) but not get ahead of decisions that Cabinet will be taking later in January.

Attendees

6. We propose that the workshop contain a cross-sector of participants that is representative of the business sector. We recommend that the following are invited to attend:

Agency/ organisation / representatives	Participants (or senior delegates where appropriate)
Ministry of Health	Dr Caroline McElnay, Director of Public Health
Aviation sector	Mary-Liz Tuck – interim Chief Executive, Auckland Airport Malcolm Johns, Chief Executive, Christchurch Airport
Special Advisors	Rob Fyfe Sir Brian Roche
Self-isolation participants	Representatives of large companies and SMEs Sir Ian Taylor
Employers and Manufacturers Association	Brett O'Riley, Chief Executive
Business New Zealand	Kirk Hope, Chief Executive

Other representatives if deemed appropriate	e.g. a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade manufacturers group
Other Government agencies	e.g. New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, border agencies

Timing

7. Given the time of year, it is expected that some the recommended participants will be unable to attend a short notice workshop if it was held next week. We will contact the attendees this week to determine the earliest practicable date that the workshop could take place with good attendance.
8. We want to ensure that in responding to the feedback raised by Sir Ian that government is not criticised by other business leaders for holding a workshop of this nature at short notice that meant they were not able to attend.

Agenda

9. To enable a well-rounded discussion of the nature of the issues that exporters are facing against the backdrop of the current state of the pandemic, we have identified the following topics for discussion at the workshop:
 - a. Public health update on Omicron and broader public health considerations re border settings (Public Health)
 - b. Briefing on joint government and industry future borders work undertaken late 2021 (Customs and Auckland Airport)
 - c. Evaluation of Self-Isolation Pilot (MBIE)
 - d. Recap of “#151 off the bench” initiative (Sir Ian Taylor)
 - e. Observations from offshore travel (other participants)
 - f. Discussion of border scenarios moving forward (facilitated)
 - g. Next steps

Next steps

10. If you agree to the participants and timing of the workshop, we will contact invitees (or their representatives) to arrange the workshop.