



## BRIEFING

### Managing severe demand for managed isolation and quarantine rooms due to concurrent events

<b>Date:</b>	14 January 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-2293

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins <b>Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<p><b>Note</b> the actions that have been taken and are underway to manage significant demand for both managed isolation and quarantine rooms in MIQ in January and February</p> <p><b>Note</b> other options that may need to be considered to manage demand from late January until the end of February</p> <p><b>Note</b> that officials are seeking to discuss this advice with you at the earliest opportunity</p>	18 January 2022
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall <b>Acting Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<b>Note</b> the information in this briefing.	18 January 2022
Hon Grant Robertson <b>Deputy Prime Minister</b>		18 January 2022

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Andrew Milne	Acting Deputy Secretary MIQ	Privacy of natural persons	
Kara Isaac	General Manager, MIQ Policy		✓
Privacy of natural persons	Policy Advisor, MIQ Policy		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Crown Law, Ministry of Health

**Minister's office to complete:**

- Approved
- Noted
- Seen
- See Minister's Notes

- Declined
- Needs change
- Overtaken by Events
- Withdrawn

**Comments**



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#### Purpose

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This briefing provides you with initial advice on the severe capacity constraints MIQ is currently experiencing for both managed isolation and quarantine rooms, advises you of the steps MIQ is taking to manage these demands, and seeks discussion with you at the earliest opportunity.

A second briefing will be provided next week seeking decisions, as required.

#### Executive summary

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Due to a range of concurrent events and decisions, managed isolation and quarantine capacity is approaching its limits with MIQ experiencing severe demand for rooms from mid-January until the end of February.

Positive border cases have increased significantly (a ten-fold increase on December) and are currently averaging 38 per day (based on the seven days from 4 – 10 January 2022) requiring the conversion of the Novotel/Ibis Ellerslie (235 rooms) from managed isolation back into a quarantine facility from Monday 17 January to increase quarantine capacity in Auckland.

Managed isolation capacity is also under significant pressure from the change to a 10 day stay on 23 December, resulting in a 27% loss in capacity, as well as initiatives implemented to support eligible New Zealanders to travel from Australia due to the delay in Stage One of Reconnecting New Zealanders (currently 377 rooms). The number of rooms for groups and other sector offline allocations is also significant – 715 rooms in January, rising to up to 1,635 rooms in February.

Running MIQ at full capacity, with no operational reserve, and with a more transmissible variant such as Omicron, could lead to increased IPC breaches and transmission risk of Omicron into the community.

This briefing sets out the range of actions that MIQ have undertaken and are in the process of exploring to be able to meet the current demand for both managed isolation and quarantine rooms.

#### Recommended action

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

- a **Note** the following pressures on managed isolation and quarantine capacity:
  - i. a 10-fold increase in positive COVID-19 cases in border arrivals since December;
  - ii. recent changes to policy and health settings resulting in a 27 percent reduction in MIQ capacity (loss of 1800 rooms over 33 days);
  - iii. approximately 715 rooms will be used by Group and Sector allocations and Time Sensitive Travel in January [2122-2262 refers];
  - iv. up to 1,635 rooms may be used by Group and Sector allocations and Time Sensitive Travel in February;

- v. supporting returns from Australia due to the delay in Stage One of Reconnecting New Zealanders with 377 rooms already allocated as of 13 January 2022; and
- vi. around 100 rooms will be needed to accommodate eligible travellers from Afghanistan and refugees between 17 January and 13 February 2022, significantly more than original forecasts of 50 rooms per month.

*Noted*

- b **Note** that due to significant capacity constraints, no rooms for January or February were included in the 6 January room release.

*Noted*

- c **Note** that as a result of capacity pressures and increasing positive cases, MIQ may not be able to meet all existing voucher commitments as well as vouchers expected to be issued through processes like emergency allocations and our efforts to support eligible New Zealanders to return from Australia through January and February.

*Noted*

- d **Note** that more frequent international flight cancellations have had a flow-on impact on our ability to predict managed isolation capacity and room availability.

*Noted*

*Actions MIQ has taken to create more quarantine capacity and meet existing voucher commitments*

- e **Note** that the Novotel/Ibis Ellerslie (235 rooms) is in the process of being converted back into a quarantine facility and the first rooms are expected to be operational on Sunday, 16 January.

*Noted*

- f **Note** that in the unlikely event that quarantine capacity in Auckland was reached prior then positive cases will need to remain at their managed isolation facility for up to 24 hours until they can be transferred.

*Noted*

- g **Note** that cohorting is being suspended where necessary to meet voucher commitments, however, this does not provide significant gain in capacity and does not align with best public health practice.

*Noted*

- h **Note** that we are making changes to our existing allocation confirmation for groups and other travellers who have received an offline allocation from the current process where they inform us of the day they will arrive in New Zealand, to MIQ directing some travellers as to the dates they can arrive to align with room availability.

*Noted*

- i **Note** that MIQ is advising the Ministry of Health and regional public health units that we will no longer have capacity to accept Delta community positive cases unless there are extenuating or exceptional circumstances.

*Noted*

- j **Note** that discussions are currently underway with Waikato Tainui about re-designating the Amohia community quarantine facility as either a dual or managed isolation facility in order to accommodate upcoming border arrivals.

*Noted*

*Noted*

*Actions being explored to meet existing voucher commitments*

l **Note** that MIQ is engaging with MFAT and INZ on options to delay the arrival of refugees and arrivals from Afghanistan (44 rooms in January and 167 rooms in February) and/or actively manage arrival dates for these groups to align these with room availability.

*Noted*

m **Note** that any delay in refugee arrivals may impact on New Zealand meeting its UN refugee quota targets for this year.

*Noted*

n **Note** that MIQ are working with NZDF to reduce the number of personnel expected next week from 60 to 40, with remaining personnel arriving at a mutually agreed later date

*Noted*

*Approach to travellers unable to arrive within 24 hours of scheduled voucher date*

o **Note** that MIQ has previously taken a flexible approach to accommodating people who have been unable to arrive on their original voucher date due to either flight cancellations or receiving a positive PDT.

*Noted*

p **Note** that with a recent increase in both flight cancellations and people receiving positive PDTs, combined with other pressures, it may no longer be possible for MIQ to accommodate all affected people seeking to reschedule their voucher for later than 24 hours of their original arrival date.

*Noted*

q **Note** that we will work with Crown Law on the appropriate operational approach to take where we are only able to accommodate the rescheduling of some affected travellers (for example, prioritising the travel of New Zealand citizens and their families).

*Noted*

*Group, sector, and time sensitive allocations*

r **Note** that Ministers made a number of decisions on Group, Sector and Time Sensitive travel allocations in November and December 2021 on the basis that MIQ would have excess capacity from 17 January, however that is no longer the case and these allocations now take up about 30 to 40 percent of managed isolation capacity in February.

*Noted*

s **Note** that group and sector allocations have been underutilised by about 64 percent (303 rooms) per month on average in 2021.

*Noted*

t **Note** that MIQ has previously taken a flexible approach for late additions and changes to offline group and sector allocations but we no longer have the capacity for this.

*Noted*

- u **Note** that over January and February MIQ will take a ‘use it or lose it’ approach to allocations and that deadlines for agencies and sectors using their allocations will be strictly adhered to.

*Noted*

- v **Note** that that the Ministry of Health has advised that it will be unable to utilise its full allocation of 300 rooms a month for either January or February and we will be engaging with them about reducing this allocation for February.

*Noted*

*Other options if this is not enough*

- w **Note** that MBIE is considering every possible lever available to meet existing voucher commitments at this time and further decisions may be urgently needed if the current trajectory of increasing border cases continues and additional quarantine capacity is required.

*Noted*

- x **Note** that we have identified alternative options that could be used to reduce demand for managed isolation:

- a. Require agencies or sectors to reduce some confirmed group and sector allocations for February;
- b. Suspend some offline allocations for February, with some applicants approved through the emergency allocation process (where eligible);
- c. Prioritise category 1 and/or 2 (higher priority) emergency allocation categories over other allocations and reduce emergency allocations from 800 for February to 600;
- d. Reduce incoming border arrivals by cancelling vouchers (BORA implications).

*Noted*

*Other matters*

- y **Note** that running MIQ at full capacity, with no operational reserve, with a more transmissible variant such as Omicron, could lead to increased IPC breaches and transmission risk of Omicron into the community.

*Noted*

- z **Note** that in the event of a large scale Omicron community outbreak before the end of February some or all of these interventions may also need to be implemented if significant numbers of the MIQ workforce test positive and/or are required to self-isolate as close contacts and/or health staff are required to be diverted to other parts of the health system.

*Noted*

- aa **Note** that the Grounded Kiwis judicial review is being heard in late January and Legally privileged

*Noted*

- bb **Note** that we will provide you with further advice next week.

*Noted*

cc **Agree** that this briefing will be proactively released with appropriate withholdings consistent with the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree /  Disagree



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

14 / 01 / 2022, 2.57pm



Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**

17 / 01 / 2022

## Background

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1. Due to a range of concurrent events and decisions MIQ capacity is approaching its limits, with a significant risk that current commitments to border arrivals expected later in January and February will not be able to be met.
2. On Monday, 20 December 2021, Cabinet delegated authority to COVID-19 Ministers (Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for COVID-19 Response and Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall) to make final decisions on the response to Omicron [CAB-21-MIN-0558 refers].
3. On 21 December 2021, as the result of revised public health advice, you agreed to amend the Isolation and Quarantine Order to change MIQ from a seven-day to a 10-day stay for new arrivals entering managed isolation from 11.59 pm, 22 December 2021. The Government also announced that Steps One and Two of Reconnecting New Zealanders (RNZ) would be delayed from 17 January (for Australia) and 14 February (for the rest of the world) until the end of February, with exact timing to be confirmed.
4. On 30 December 2021, you agreed to support two specific cohorts of people for return from Australia to New Zealand before the end of February [2122-2262 refers]. These are people who travelled to Australia following the Government's announcement on 24 November and before 22 December who did not have a MIAS voucher (about 370 people) and those who held a voucher between 25 November to 28 February who proactively cancelled their voucher (about 200 people). As of 13 January, we have issued vouchers to 582 eligible passengers for 377 rooms.
5. Following the 21 December announcement, MBIE cancelled the MIAS voucher lobby release planned for 22 December. The voucher release on 6 January (1,250 room) only included rooms for March and April and the next planned release has been delayed until 20 January [2122-2317 refers]. We will provide further advice on the lobby release planned for next week separately.

## MIQ is experiencing severe demand in January and February

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6. Border cases are currently averaging 38 per day<sup>1</sup>, which is a ten-fold increase on December.
7. MIQ is in the process converting the Novotel/Ibis Ellerslie back into a quarantine facility with the first rooms available on Sunday, 16 January. While increasing quarantine capacity in Auckland, this will remove 235 rooms from the managed isolation portfolio and constrain MIQ's ability to meet existing voucher commitments. A combination of suspending cohorting in some Auckland facilities and upcoming flight cancellations will mean that MIQ can accommodate the forecast shortfalls in managed isolation space next week (where vouchers exceed capacity on certain dates).
8. MIQ will likely be at capacity and have very little flexibility to manage further changes over late January and February (see **Annex 2**). Overseas airlines are increasingly cancelling flights due to crew testing positive for COVID. Changing pre-departure test (PDT) requirements mean that more people are testing positive and unable to travel on their planned dates. Previously, MIQ facilitated changing voucher dates for affected travellers, but we may no longer be able to do this for every flight change, particularly where large numbers of travellers are affected.
9. Running MIQ at full capacity, with no operational reserve, and with a more transmissible variant such as Omicron, could lead to increased IPC breaches and transmission risk of Omicron into the community. Should another quarantine facility be required then action will need to be taken to reduce the number of expected border arrivals. There is an opportunity

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the 7-day period from 4-10 January 2022



to consider reducing flows into MIQ to manage this risk, as there are increasingly limited options to increase quarantine capacity across the network.

10. In addition, the Grounded Kiwis judicial review on the MIQ system is being held in late January. Legally privileged

## **Demand numbers**

### *Groups, sector allocations and time sensitive travel*

11. In late 2021 a number of decisions were made that significantly increased the number of rooms allocated to offline allocations. This included:
  - a. Increasing the TST allocation to 400 a month from January 2022 (800 per two month allocation cycle)
  - b. Border Exception Ministers agreeing to 510 rooms for sector allocations for January and February 2022 on the basis that MIQ would have excess capacity from 17 January 2022 ; and
  - c. The creation of new offline allocations including the health worker allocation, Ministerial travel allocation, and Sports and Culture allocation (all of which have been under utilised)
12. MIQ was expecting approximately 715 rooms to be used by Group and Sector allocations and Time Sensitive Travel in January [2122-2262 refers]. The actual number is likely to be smaller (roughly 500) due to high numbers of positive pre-departure tests preventing arrivals and some people deciding not to travel for other reasons.
13. Numbers are still being confirmed, but in February we expect up to 1,635 rooms may be used by Group and Sector allocations and Time Sensitive Travel. This includes:
  - a. Approximately 840 rooms for the following Groups:
    - i. Refugees and Afghanistan visa holders (approximately 320 rooms or 80 rooms per week)
    - ii. Antarctic workers (50 rooms)
    - iii. Cricket World Cup teams (181 rooms)
    - iv. Cricket World Cup support workers, officials, and media (approx 300 rooms agreed on 30 November 2021)
    - v. Summer of Cricket: South Africa (35 rooms)
    - vi. Expo (approx 164 rooms)
    - vii. New Zealand Defence Force (80 rooms)
    - viii. Winter Olympics/Paralympics (53 rooms)
  - b. A further 510 rooms for sector allocations (Health Workers, Exporters, Construction Sector Accord, ministerial travel, Sport and Cultural Sector to be confirmed 18 January to early February 2022).
  - c. 123 rooms for Time Sensitive Travel.
14. Since the increase to 800 rooms over the two-month period came into effect, we have found that time sensitive allocations are significantly under-utilised. On average, only 35 percent of

TST allocations (288 rooms) are used every two months. Across January and February, we have allocated 237 vouchers (with 16 further vouchers to be confirmed) with 114 rooms in January and 123 rooms in February out of 800 rooms. Unallocated rooms have now been redistributed back into the managed isolation system as per standard practice.

#### *Australia returns for January and February*

15. On 30 December 2021, you agreed the scope of people to be returned from Australia to New Zealand and a bespoke temporary emergency allocation category [2122-2262 refers]. As at 6pm, 11 January 2022, MIQ has issued MIAS vouchers for 619 passengers (377 rooms) for travellers who are eligible for assistance to return from Australia to New Zealand.
16. The new Emergency Allocation category 5 for New Zealanders in Australia also started accepting applications from Thursday 13 January for one month. We will provide a further update on the number of applications approved next week.

#### *Refugees and other eligible critical purpose visa holders from Afghanistan*

17. The Government has committed to supporting eligible visa holders from Afghanistan (visa holders) following the Taliban takeover in August 2020. We advised in late September [briefing 2122-1129 refers] that approximately 1,250 eligible travellers from Afghanistan remained offshore (in addition to the 389 evacuees already in New Zealand). MFAT forecasts indicated between 100 and 500 additional travellers would enter New Zealand by the end of 2021, requiring approximately 50 rooms per month.
18. This was an underestimate. Since late September an additional 536 travellers have entered New Zealand bring the total to 925 eligible visa holders to the end of 2021. You recently agreed for MIQ to work with MFAT to keep the number of rooms used by visa holders and refugees to around 80 rooms per month [2122-2262 refers]. However, we anticipate around 93 rooms will be needed to house eligible visa holders between 17 January and 13 February and 118 rooms will be needed for refugees from 17 January to the end of February 2022 (total 211 rooms).
19. Further to this, the number of critical purpose visa visitors granted by the Associate Minister of Immigration were not included in our initial forecasts. In December 2021, the Associate Minister granted approximately 100 visas to Afghan Nationals who were viewed as vulnerable to being targeted by the Taliban.
20. MFAT advises that it is unable to hold Afghan travellers in third country locations for an extended period. Afghan travellers receive limited time periods to transit in third countries, and the New Zealand Government often has to expressly undertake to support the onward movement of those visa holders within that timeframe. The elevated numbers of arrivals anticipated through January and February are already the result of moderating arrivals from Afghanistan in December due to MIQ/resettlement constraints. Preventing people from departing Afghanistan would increase their risk.
21. MIQ will continue to work with MFAT and INZ on options available, including where people need to travel to New Zealand to align their arrival date with when there is room availability in managed isolation.

#### *NZDF group returns*

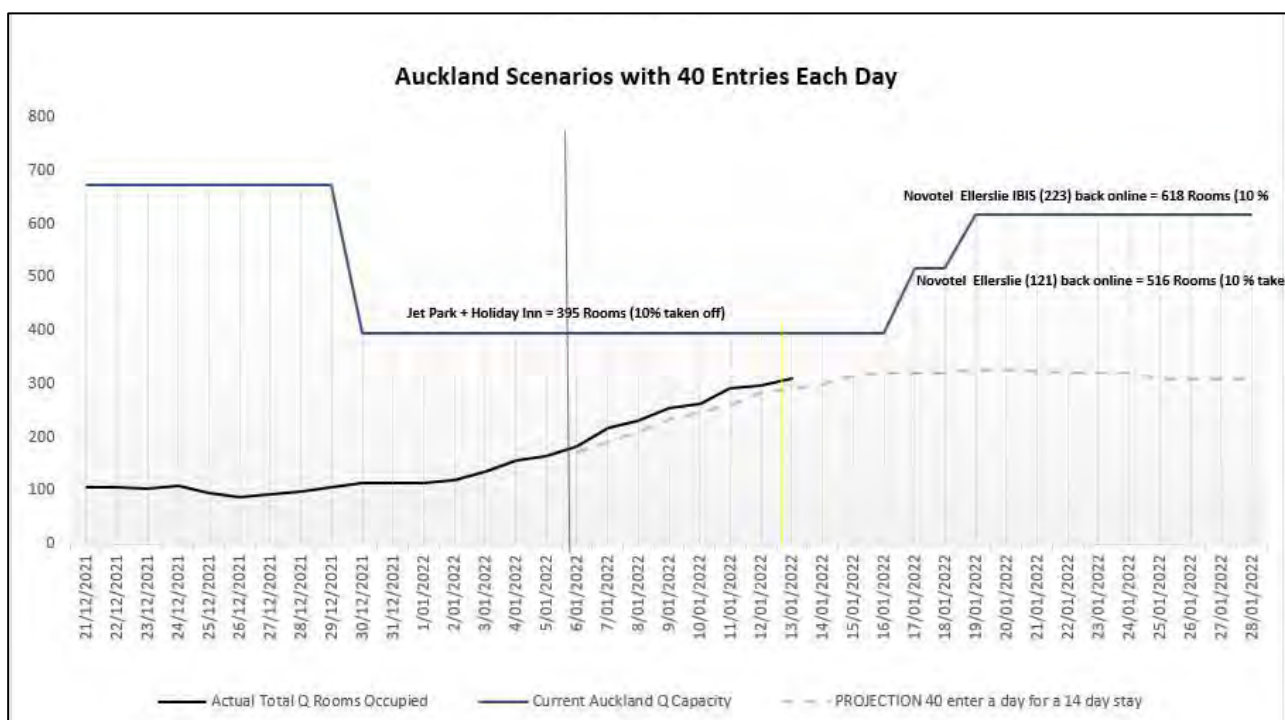
22. We have been working with NZDF on an option to reduce their contingency of 60 personnel due to arrive next week down to 40, with the rest arriving at a mutually agreed later date. There may also be opportunities in February for NZDF to use alternative accommodation to MIQ as NZDF personnel are not legally required to enter MIQ. However, this would depend on the groups COVID risk profile at that time.

## Mitigations to address quarantine shortfall

### Human rights implications of increased positive border cases and demand for quarantine

23. It is difficult to predict the number of people that will test positive at the border each day. The rolling seven day average is currently 38 cases a day, however this is highly variable with 65 positive cases on 12 January, 13 cases on 13 January, and 43 cases on 14 January. Current data is trending towards a significant increase in positive cases from the border requiring quarantine. On current forecasting the Novotel/Ibis Ellerslie will be operational before current quarantine capacity in Auckland is reached.
24. **Graph 1** below outlines current Auckland quarantine forecasting based on an average of 1.8 people per quarantine room and an average of 40 positive cases per day.

**Graph 1. Auckland quarantine forecasting**



25. However, if there is a significant increase in cases over the next two days (ie more than 50 border cases per day) then quarantine capacity may be reached over this weekend. If this happens people would be required to remain at their managed isolation facility for up to 24 hours until the Novotel/Ibis Ellerslie is available.
26. Requiring people to quarantine in their managed isolation facility would be a last resort if all quarantine rooms are exhausted.

### Further operational practices

27. On 15 October 2021, you agreed that cohorting could be suspended where necessary to have maximum flexibility to accommodate planned arrivals [2122-1377 refers]. MIQ is continuing to take this approach in order to ensure that all arrivals can be accommodated. We note that this is not recommended by Public Health and so we only do so where necessary to meet commitments to border arrivals. Cohorting continues to be maintained where possible.

## Options to maximise managed isolation space

28. We are undertaking the following measures to address the reduction in managed isolation rooms.

### *Converting existing regional quarantine rooms into isolation rooms*

29. We are currently in discussion with Waikato Tainui to convert the Amohia community quarantine facility in Hamilton back to being a managed isolation facility. We will update you on this next week.

### *Taking a 'use it or lose it' approach to group allocations*

30. Border Ministers agreed to allocate 510 of rooms, out of the 910 available, for the group allocation for 'sector' allocations. Current allocations are underutilised by around 64 percent (about 300 rooms) on average per month (see **Table 1** below).
31. We have advised agencies that any rooms not taken up for January and February will be made available for any shortfalls in isolation space. This may provide a further 300 rooms per month (approximately) that could be placed back into the managed isolation system. This is our standard approach to these allocations, though in the past we have been more flexible for late or urgent applicants.

**Table 1. Group allocation utilisation**

Sector	Current monthly room allocation	Past % of allocation not utilised	Rooms that can be released (based on % under-utilised)
Health workers	300	64%	192
Sport and Culture	40	75%	30
New Zealand Trade and Enterprise exporters and expo	90	28%	25
Construction Sector Accord	60	63%	38
Ministerial travel	20	88%	18
<b>TOTAL/AVERAGE</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>303</b>

### Commercial information

### **We are also considering alternative options**

34. MIQ is utilising all capacity levers that are currently available, however these levers will not prove adequate if the current trajectory continues and additional quarantine facilities are required. Some possible alternative levers for managing demand include:

- a. Require agencies or sectors to re-prioritise and reduce some confirmed group allocations for February, for example:
    - i. Reduce the Cricket World Cup officials group allocation for support workers, officials and media (about 300 rooms)
    - ii. Reduce the critical health worker allocation by half (300 rooms)
    - iii. Suspending the Ministerial travel allocation (20 rooms)
  - b. Cancelling or moving existing MIAS vouchers (this would need to be prioritised e.g. visa holders first, then NZ residents, then citizens because of BORA);
  - c. Suspend processing of emergency allocation categories 3, 4 and 5 (note: category 5 recently opened on 13 January for New Zealanders in Australia) and reduce allocation from 800 to 600 for February
35. **Annex 1** canvasses all options that could be implemented, including the benefits, risks, and possible mitigations for each option.

### **Planning is underway for a large scale Omicron outbreak in the community**

36. MIQ is contributing to the wider all-of-government work on business continuity planning in the event of a large scale Omicron outbreak in the community. This work includes detailed analysis of every MIQ facility, the minimum staff that it needs to function, and contingency planning for if these staff are not available due to testing positive for COVID, needing to self-isolate due to being a close contact, or needing to be diverted to other parts of the system (in particular, health staff).
37. If there is a large scale Omicron outbreak before the end of February then it is highly likely that some or all of the interventions above will need to be implemented in order to reduce the flow of border arrivals and ensure that MIQ is able to continue to function with a reduced workforce.

### **Next steps**

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38. We are seeking an urgent discussion with you at the earliest opportunity. We will also provide you with a follow up briefing next week.

### **Annexes**

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**Annex One:** Other possible levers to manage demand.

**Annex Two:** Rooms remaining in managed isolation in January and February and critical capacity points (<40)

## Annex One: Levers to manage demand

Actioned options						
Region	Option	Benefits	Risks/potential consequences	Mitigations	Likely impact on capacity	Status
All regions	Not releasing January or February rooms onto the MIAS lobby release on 6 January 2022	Keeping rooms back to enable us to meet existing voucher commitments and offline allocations and support New Zealanders from Australia to return	Limits New Zealander's right to return to New Zealand over January to February  Pushes capacity issues to March and April depending on Reconnecting New Zealanders timeframes	Decisions still to be made on voucher release for 20 January, however unlikely to include any January or February rooms	Minimal as there were no rooms to release for January and February	Complete
All regions	Permission for cohorting to be suspended from 15 October if necessary to meet commitments to border arrivals	Less room wastage as can fill empty rooms in facilities after the 48-hour intake period	Not recommended by public health  Infection prevention and control (IPC) risks as this would involve mixing people at the beginning of their stay with those at the end of their stay  Adding more cohorts into a facility could further limit the time people could have outside of their room. This could further limit people's right to movement and/or the rights of detained persons to be treated with dignity and respect.	Minimising interaction between those in different cohorts such as different times for fresh air access and placing people on different floors	Minimal impact, may only result in a gain of 3-5% of rooms across the network, and may not be able to be utilised depending on where the gaps are	Underway – cohorting is being suspended in specific facilities where necessary to meet commitments to border arrivals
Options under action or being explored						
Auckland	Converting Novotel/Ibis Ellerslie into quarantine facilities from 17 January 2022	Increase of 235 rooms for quarantine capacity	Loss of 235 rooms from managed isolation capacity		Net zero capacity gain due to gain of 235 rooms for quarantine and loss of 135 rooms from managed isolation capacity	Underway – to be fully converted by 17/18 January 2022
Auckland	Working with NZDF to reduce next week's arrivals and identify and implement an alternative to MIQ for self-isolation for groups arriving in February (risk profile dependent)	Increase in managed isolation capacity	Alternatives for self-isolation may not meet IPC requirements for MIQ  May not be a suitable alternative location available for NZDF to isolate		80 rooms in February	Underway
Auckland	Engaging with MFAT and INZ about delaying arrival of refugees and/or	Could free up capacity in the Naumi (176 rooms)	Reputational risks, including impacts on our international commitments.		44 rooms in January and 167 rooms in February	Underway

	Afghanistan evacuees and/or aligning arrival dates with room availability		Impact on New Zealand meeting its UN refugee quota targets for this year			
All regions	No longer accept any Delta community cases or close contacts into MIQ facilities unless extenuating and exceptional circumstances.	Preserves quarantine capacity for border cases	Increased risk of community Delta transmission.  Community facilities may reach capacity.		Community cases currently occupy 50 quarantine rooms	Engaging with Ministry of Health and regional public health units
All regions	Change our existing allocation confirmation for groups and other selected travellers informing us the day they will arrive in New Zealand, to instead MIQ directing dates that are available for arrivals	This will enable MIQ to better manage and predict demand in a constrained capacity environment and reduce room wastage	Reputational risks, administratively burdensome		Prevents arrivals on days where capacity is already forecast to be exhausted	Underway
Central (Hamilton)	Discussions with Waikato Tainui to return Amohia community quarantine facility to managed isolation for border arrivals	Would make available needed rooms for managed isolation			Up to 110 rooms for managed isolation	Underway
Christchurch	Working to schedule additional charter flight to Christchurch for Wednesday, 19 January  Raise with Air New Zealand whether it would be possible to have a small number of flights from Australia directly to Christchurch	Would allow further utilisation of Christchurch managed isolation capacity				Underway  To engage next week
All regions	Over January and February MIQ are taking a 'use it or lose it' approach to group allocations – particularly sector allocations	Free up managed isolation capacity	Reputational risks, as previously we have been able to be more flexible with agencies and sectors.		About 300 rooms based on previous underutilisation rates	Underway
All regions	Prioritising New Zealand citizens when unable to reschedule vouchers for all people who have been unable to arrive on their scheduled day (or within 24 hours of) due to flight cancellations or testing positive for COVID-19	Ensures that there is a room in managed isolation for every border arrival  Reduces BORA risk by prioritising New Zealand citizens (and families)	Reputational and humanitarian implications of residents and visa holders who have not been able to travel due to circumstances outside of their control		Will continue to push managed isolation capacity to its limits but will ensure it is not exceeded	Being explored
<b>Options for discussion</b>						
<b>Region</b>	<b>Option</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Risks/potential consequences</b>	<b>Mitigations</b>	<b>Likely impact on capacity</b>	<b>Status</b>
All regions	Require agencies or sectors to re-prioritise and reduce some confirmed group allocations for non New Zealand citizens February, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the Cricket World Cup support workers allocation (about 300 rooms)</li> </ul>	Reduces demand on both managed isolation and quarantine rooms and allows MIQ to meet other existing voucher commitments  Reduces room wastage from unused allocations	Reputational <small>Legal professional privilege</small> Legal professional privilege	Critical health workers would remain eligible to enter under emergency allocations		For discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the critical health worker allocation by half (300 rooms)</li> <li>Suspending the Ministerial travel allocation (20 rooms)</li> </ul>	(approx. 200 rooms out of 510 go unused per month on average)				
All regions	Cancel or reschedule existing MIAS vouchers.	Reduces demand on both managed isolation and quarantine rooms and allows MIQ to meet some existing voucher commitments	<p>Legal professional privilege</p> <p>Reputational risks including impacts on international commitments</p>	Prioritise New Zealand citizens over others with vouchers		For discussion, including with Crown Law for further Bill of Rights Act advice
All regions	Suspend processing of emergency allocation categories 3, 4 and 5 (note: category 5 recently opened on 13 January for New Zealanders in Australia) and reduce allocations from 800 to 600 for February	Reduces demand on both managed isolation and quarantine rooms and allows MIQ to meet other existing voucher commitments	<p>Legal professional privilege reputational risks.</p> <p>Legal professional privilege</p> <p>Category 5 opened on 13 January, so suspending it would further limit New Zealanders in Australia from returning</p>		200 rooms	For discussion



**Annex Two: Rooms remaining in managed isolation in January and February and critical capacity points (<40)**

