



## BRIEFING

### Proactive release of Cabinet paper: Reducing Managed Isolation stays for border arrivals from 14 to 9 or 10 days

<b>Date:</b>	27 January 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-1896

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Chris Hipkins <b>Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<b>Agree</b> to the release of the Cabinet paper  <b>Agree</b> to the proposed redactions	3 February 2022

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Privacy of natural persons	Acting General Manager, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	
	Manager, System and Strategy Policy		
	Senior Policy Advisor, System and Strategy Policy		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Ministry of Health

**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 Withdrawn           |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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### Purpose

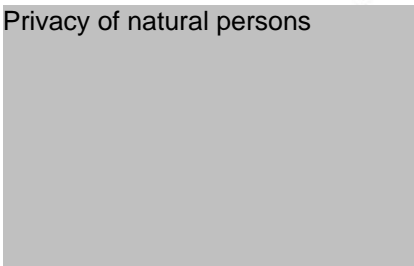
To seek your agreement to proactively release the Cabinet paper *Reducing Managed Isolation stays for border arrivals from 14 to 9 or 10 days*. MBIE proposes to release this information on 8 February 2022.

### Recommended action

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

- a **Agree** to the release of the Cabinet paper *Reducing Management Isolation Stays for Border Arrivals from 14 to 9 or 10 Days* and associated minute *Agree / Disagree*
- b **Agree** to the proposed redactions *Agree / Disagree*

Privacy of natural persons



**Acting General Manager, MIQ Policy**  
Managed Isolation and Quarantine, MBIE

..28.. / ..01.. / ..2022..

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

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## Background

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1. On 18 October 2021, you took the following paper and supporting documents to Cabinet: *Reducing Managed Isolation Stays for Border Arrivals from 14 to 9 or 10 Days*
2. Cabinet referred the proposals to the COVID-19 Ministerial Group for further consideration and authorised the COVID-19 Ministerial Group to have Power to Act to take decisions on the proposals [CAB-21-MIN-0424 refers].
3. On 28 October 2021, COVID-19 Ministers took decisions on reducing managed isolation and quarantine requirements and expanding Pacific one-way quarantine-free travel based on a Ministry of Health briefing. Ministers agreed to change managed isolation stays to seven days plus around three days home isolation pending a negative day nine test (7+3 model) [HR20212360 refers].
4. Please note that MBIE requires at least 3-5 working days to publish Cabinet material to [mbie.govt.nz](http://mbie.govt.nz), following completion of a due diligence process and having obtained your approval to the material's proactive release. If you would like the material released on a specific date (for example, to coincide with an announcement) please let us know so we can work to meet your timeframes.

## Recommendation

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5. MBIE recommends the proactive release of the Cabinet paper and supporting documents with some information redacted for the following reasons:
  - a. Confidential advice to Government
  - b. To maintain legal privilege
6. The Cabinet paper was jointly written by MBIE and the Ministry of Health. It advised Cabinet to reduce MIQ requirements to 9 or 10 days, with 10 days being the Public Health-recommended option, and 9 days being your recommended option.
7. Final decisions were not taken on this paper and instead Ministers made decisions based on a Ministry of Health briefing as mentioned above. On 28 October 2021, COVID-19 Ministers agreed to the 7+3 model [HR20212360 refers].
8. Free and frank opinions  
[REDACTED] We understand the Ministry of Health are considering this report for proactive release and we support this release to pre-empt questions about why the MIQ stay duration changed from the initial advice to Cabinet on 18 October 2021.
9. Paragraph 39 of the Cabinet paper states that "every other Auckland Managed Isolation facility has stated that they will not accept either COVID-19 community cases or close contacts". This refers to a particular moment in time, however it is no longer accurate. Discussions are ongoing regularly with facilities about managed isolation and quarantine designations. We don't consider there are applicable grounds available for withholding this information, and instead recommend providing a note in the coversheet correcting this statement (see Annex 1).

## Consultation

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10. MBIE Communications have been notified of the proposed release of information and have raised no issues.

11. Ministry of Health have been consulted and have no issues with the proposed release.

## **Annexes**

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Annex One: Coversheet and documents for release

Annex Two: Marked-up copy

## **Annex One: Coversheet and documents for release**

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The documents can be found at:

[Reducing Managed Isolation stays for border arrival from 14 to 9 or 10 days \(PDF, 217KB\)](#)

