



AIDE MEMOIRE

Current MIQ allocations for the export and business sectors

Date:	6 January 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-2276

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister for COVID-19 Response

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kara Isaac	General Manager, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Privacy of natural persons	Senior Policy Advisor	n/a	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

n/a

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 Withdrawn |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 provide you with information on the current MIQ allocations for the export sector.

Kara Isaac
General Manager, MIQ Policy
Managed Isolation and Quarantine, MBIE

6 / 1 / 22

MIQ allocations currently available to support exporters

1. MBIE has worked with various government agencies and BusinessNZ throughout 2021 to provide increased certainty of MIQ allocation for exporters and the business sector. This includes regular meetings with BusinessNZ to understand the issues that the sector is facing.
2. The current MIQ settings for exporters provide multiple pathways to access space within MIQ, on top of the general allocation through the MIAS lobby that is available to everyone. These include:
 - A dedicated monthly exporter allocation administered by NZTE
 - Time Sensitive Travel allocation
 - Expo Group Allocation

A dedicated monthly exporter allocation commenced in November

3. Last year, NZTE submitted a proposal to the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group to establish a monthly New Zealand exporter allocation in MIQ. The intent of this scheme was to facilitate travel where exporters have a strong need to go to market but are unable to make travel arrangements because of the difficulty and uncertainty of securing MIQ places for their return.
4. In July 2021, the Border Exception Ministers Group agreed to trial an allocation of 25 MIQ rooms per month for November and December 2021 [Briefing 2122-0065 refers]. NZTE is responsible for administering the allocation and deciding who accesses the space. As part of this decision, the Border Ministers also agreed the allocation could continue past the trial, if space was available.

5. The allocation for the trial period of November and December 2021 was fully allocated, with NZTE reporting that expressions of interest for the allocation significantly outstripped the 25 rooms per month. Given the full utilisation of the allocation and the high levels of demand, the allocation has continued beyond the trial.
6. In November 2021, the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group agreed for the allocation to increase to 30 rooms in January, 90 rooms in February and 150 in March 2022 [Briefing 2122-1754].
7. Ten rooms out of the 30 available have been confirmed by NZTE for this month. Final numbers for February are due to be confirmed by 18 January 2022. NZTE has advised that they anticipate the February allocation will be fully utilised.

Time Sensitive Travel allocation

8. MIQ operates a Time Sensitive Travel allocation for workers travelling to and from New Zealand to undertake time sensitive tasks in specified areas of work that will have significant benefits or consequences, if not completed. From January 2022, there are 400 Time Sensitive Travel rooms available per month.
9. MBIE reviewed the settings for the allocation in July 2021 and introduced a new set of criteria to allow for economic reasons for travel. This was based on feedback from government agencies and BusinessNZ.
10. These criteria allow travel to “prevent lasting damage to New Zealand substantial economic interests... for 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.”
11. NZTE is the sponsoring agency for any export related requests and plays the key roles in determining which applicants meet the criteria.

Expo Group Allocation

12. In July 2021, the Border Exceptions Ministers Group agreed to increase the size of the group allocation to 450 in late November and to accommodate a package of allocations for the period of November 2021 – March 2022. This included a total of 329 who attended the Expo 2020 in Dubai to enter New Zealand between late November 2021 and early March 2022. There were 65 rooms allocated between 77 arrivals in late November and no allocations in December 2021. However, as of 6 January 2022, the following number of rooms have been allocated to accommodate upcoming returnees from the Expo:
 - 27 January – 16 rooms
 - 29 January – 44 rooms
 - 3 February – 45 rooms
 - 5 February – 75 rooms
 - 26 February – 44 rooms
 - 12 March – 25 rooms

Other sector allocations

13. MBIE also maintains other ongoing sector allocations to provide increased certainty of MIQ allocation for critical sectors. This includes rooms for:
- Critical Health Workers – 150 per fortnight (or 300 per month)
 - Construction Sector Accord – 60 spaces per month
 - Sports and Culture - 40 per month
 - Ministerial travel – 20 per month
 - Refugee programme – 100 people every 6 weeks