



BRIEFING

Tapering the MIQ network from 12 to four facilities by 30 June 2022

Date:	17 March 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-3112

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response	Agree to the proposed timeline for tapering the MIQ network from 12 to four remaining facilities by 30 June 2022.	21 March 2022

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

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Withdrawn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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Purpose

To seek your agreement to the proposed timeline for tapering the MIQ network from 12 to four remaining facilities by 30 June 2022.

Recommended action

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

- a **Note** that 20 of 32 MIQ facilities are being decommissioned immediately.

Noted

- b **Agree** to the proposed timeline for tapering the MIQ network from 12 to four remaining facilities by 30 June 2022.

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

Andrew Milne
Associate Deputy Secretary
MIQ, MBIE

17 / 03 / 2022

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

20 / 03 / 2022

Background

1. On 9 March 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC), having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-22-MIN-0059 refers], agreed to accelerate the transition of the MIQ network. The SWC:
 - 1.1. Noted that steps have been taken to decommission eight facilities (with one having chosen to exit the MIQ network),
 - 1.2. Agreed to decommission at least a further 13 facilities (i.e. a total of at least 21 facilities) before 30 June 2022, and
 - 1.3. Agreed to consolidate the MIQ network into three or four facilities in Auckland and Christchurch, extending contracts until December 2022, while retaining clauses which enable early exit through a notice period [SWC-22-MIN-0032 refers].
2. As previously advised via oral update, we commenced the decommissioning of 20 facilities (set out in Annex One) on Friday, 11 March. We plan to taper the 12 remaining facilities to four by 30 June 2022. As a result, 28 facilities in total will be decommissioned by 30 June 2022, and four facilities will remain in the MIQ network from 1 July 2022.¹
3. This briefing sets out our timeline for tapering the MIQ network from 12 to four remaining facilities by 30 June 2022.

Timeline for tapering 12 MIQ facilities to 4 by 30 June 2022

4. In order to taper the MIQ network from 12 to four facilities by 30 June 2022, we propose decommissioning² eight facilities in two stages:
 - 4.1. **Five facilities to be deactivated between 18 March-15 April:** These facilities currently accommodate special use groups (e.g. refugees, Afghanistan arrivals, overseas-based aircrew, deportees, and mariners). While these groups are no longer required to enter MIQ, they can be accommodated (if necessary) across the four facilities to remain in the MIQ network from 1 July 2022.³
 - 4.2. **Three facilities to be deactivated by the end of May:** These are the only MIQ facilities remaining in Hamilton, Rotorua, and Wellington. Deactivating them by the end of May allows MIQ to continue to support community cases across our five regions for the time being. It also ensures that hotels have one 'empty' month to prepare for re-entering the market.
5. Deactivating these eight facilities, in this way, makes best use of our network, and ensures that MIQ staff can be returned to their home agencies as soon as possible.
6. By 25 March, approximately 90% of New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel working in MIQ will be returned to NZDF. The remainder will be released in stages, as further facilities are

¹You and the Minister of Finance, in consultation with the Prime Minister and Minister of Health, have been delegated authority to make any adjustments to this decision (subject to any financial implications being within the appropriation already agreed by Cabinet) [SWC-22-MIN-0032 refers].

²Decommissioning involves 1) deactivation (no border arrivals or community cases are in the facility, which has a skeleton staff), 2) de-designation of hotels as MIQ facilities (removing MIQ requirements, e.g. testing for people on-site, following deep-cleaning of the facility), and 3) decommissioning (involving remediation and artifact retrieval e.g. fencing, signage, hardware).

³You are receiving separate advice on suspending offline allocations and maintaining contingency for some groups in the short term [BR 2122-3075 refers].

deactivated, or MBIE staff move into roles currently occupied by NZDF personnel. All NZDF personnel will be withdrawn from MIQ by May 2022.

7. Further detail on these eight facilities, their locations, approximate deactivation dates, and rationales for being deactivated are set out in **Table One**.

Table One: Eight facilities to be exited from the MIQ network by 30 June 2022

MIQ facility	Location	Function	Approx. deactivation date	Rationale
1. Naumi	Auckland	Special use	15 April	No operational need for facility. Currently accommodates refugees and Afghanistan arrivals but these people can be managed in a core facility (specifically, Waipuna, which has previously accommodated people with complex health needs). Final date is subject to agreement with key partner agencies.
2. M Social	Auckland	Special use	25 March	Facility accommodates overseas-based aircrew. Despite not being required to enter MIQ, aircrew are <i>allowed</i> to do so while waiting to re-contact their pre-COVID-19 hotels, which are currently being exited from the MIQ network. MIQ will deactivate this facility (so MIQ staff can be released to their home agencies), but M Social will continue to house aircrew for the time being.
3. Novotel Airport	Auckland	Special use	25 March	No operational need for facility. Accommodates mariners but they do not require their own facility and can be managed in a core facility. Final date is subject to agreement with key partner agencies.
4. Ramada	Auckland	Special use	18 March	No operational need for facility. Previously accommodated 501 deportees who will no longer required to enter MIQ if unvaccinated.
5. Amohia (Jet Park)	Hamilton	Community	End of May	Only remaining facility in Hamilton. DHB and Iwi want facility to remain for community cases. Will be deactivated by end of May to provide hotel 'empty month' to prepare. *
6. Sudima	Rotorua	Community	End of May	Only remaining facility in Rotorua. DHB and Iwi want facility to remain for community cases. Will be deactivated by end of May to provide hotel 'empty month' to prepare. *
7. Grand Mercure	Wellington	Community	End of May	Only remaining facility in Wellington. Will be deactivated by end of May to provide hotel 'empty month' to prepare. *
8. The Elms	Christchurch	Community Special use	18 March	No operational need for facility. Had been earmarked for community and groups.

*We are engaging with DHBs and Care in the Community agencies to determine whether they want to take over the contracts for, and operate, these facilities (not as 'MIQ', but as alternative accommodation).

Four facilities to remain in the MIQ network from 1 July 2022

8. We intend to contract four facilities to remain in the MIQ network from 1 July to December 2022 (subject to hotel agreement).
9. These facilities are Jet Park (Auckland), Holiday Inn (Auckland), Waipuna (Auckland), and the Commodore (Christchurch).
10. These 'core' facilities will be designated as dual use (i.e. for managed isolation *and* quarantine) to accommodate all people, as necessary (e.g. border arrivals, special use groups, community cases).
11. MIQ is looking to offer accommodation for Afghanistan arrivals until the end of April, and quota refugees and Pacific mariners until the end of June (when we understand demand is likely to drop) [BR 2122-3075 refers]. 'Core' facilities could, however, cater for these or other special use groups beyond this date, if required.

Next steps

We will be providing you with weekly updates on our progress in decommissioning MIQ facilities via the *Weekly Report*. We will inform you of any significant issues during this process, and flag where they are material to the timeline set out in this briefing.

We are also exploring options for use of the four remaining facilities from 1 July 2022, in light of SWC's recent decisions regarding unvaccinated people no longer being required to enter MIQ (which will see MIQ demand at the border all but disappear).

Annexes

Annex One: Twenty MIQ facilities issued with 90-day notices on Friday, 11 March.

Annex One: Twenty MIQ facilities issued with 90-day notices

MIQ facility	Location
1. Crowne Plaza	Auckland
2. Four Points	Auckland
3. Grand Mercure	Auckland
4. Grand Millennium	Auckland
5. Novotel/Ibis Ellerslie	Auckland
6. Sebel	Auckland
7. SO/	Auckland
8. Stamford	Auckland
9. Pullman	Auckland
10. Sudima Airport	Auckland
11. Rydges	Auckland
12. Distinction	Hamilton
13. Ibis Tainui	Hamilton
14. Rydges	Rotorua
15. Ibis	Rotorua
16. Chateau	Christchurch
17. Crowne Plaza	Christchurch
18. Distinction	Christchurch
19. Sudima Airport	Christchurch
20. Novotel Airport	Christchurch