



## BRIEFING

### Inter-agency support for Managed Isolation and Quarantine

<b>Date:</b>	23 November 2020	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	2021-1439

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins <b>Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<b>Provide</b> feedback on a draft Cabinet paper about NZDF resources supporting Managed Isolation and Quarantine, and options for taking that paper to Cabinet.	23 November 2020

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Melleny Black	GM MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	
Privacy of natural persons	Policy Director		✓

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Withdrawn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



# BRIEFING

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### Purpose

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To seek your feedback on the draft Cabinet paper relating to resources provided by other government agencies to support Managed Isolation and Quarantine.

### Executive summary

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You have asked the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to draft a paper seeking Cabinet's agreement for key agencies to continue providing resources to support Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) services.

MIQ is a cross-agency initiative led by MBIE. Its' success is highly dependent on the resources provided by the New Zealand Defence Force, Aviation Security Services, the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards, and the New Zealand Police. The current inter-agency collaboration is not underpinned by a formal decision by Cabinet.

MIQ's ability to safely deliver isolation and quarantine services at current capacity would be threatened in the event that other agencies withdrew their resources, particularly if the withdrawal was at short notice.

The attached draft Cabinet paper seeks Cabinet's in-principle agreement for the New Zealand Defence Force to continue providing resources to support MIQ. It also notes the timeframes needed for MIQ to safely transition to alternative resources in the event the New Zealand Defence Force and Aviation Security Services re-deploy the resources currently supporting MIQ.

This briefing seeks your feedback on:

- the draft Cabinet paper
- options for taking the paper to Cabinet.

## Recommended action

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

- a **Agree** to provide feedback on the attached draft paper seeking Cabinet's in-principle agreement for the New Zealand Defence Force to continue providing resources to support MIQ.

Agree /  Disagree

- b **Advise** MBIE of your preferred option for taking the proposed recommendation / paper to Cabinet.

I agree to a mix of options 2 and 3. The funding paper should outline the issue and note that I will work with the Minister of Defence to bring joint advice in the New Year. It should ask Cabinet to agree that resources will not be withdrawn at short notice in the meantime.

Agree /  Disagree



Melleny Black  
**General Manager, MIQ Policy**  
Managed Isolation and Quarantine, MBIE

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

..... 24 / ..... 11 / ..... 2020

## Background

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1. New Zealand's COVID-19 border response has been underpinned by the goodwill and cooperation of various agencies who diverted resources to quickly stand-up and support the managed isolation and quarantine system.
2. At your meeting with MIQ officials on Tuesday 17 November, you noted the risk associated with MBIE's dependency on resources being provided by other agencies to support the delivery of managed isolation and quarantine services.
3. NZDF and Avsec pose a particular risk given the risk that personnel could be re-deployed at short notice to respond respectively to national and international emergencies, or increased aviation travel in the event of safe travel zones opening.
4. The Ministry of Transport is seeking funding for Avsec's MIQ-related activity in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years in the MIQ Operating Model and Funding Cabinet paper.
5. You asked officials to draft a Cabinet paper to:
  - a. draw the attention of your colleagues to that risk, identify the key agencies providing those resources, the timeframes MBIE would need to safely transition from dependency on those resource to alternatives, and
  - b. seek your colleagues' continued commitment to providing those critical resources and, in the event that those resources did need to be re-deployed, their commitment to a safe, well-managed transition to alternative resourcing.
6. MBIE is seeking your feedback on the draft Cabinet paper and options for you to take that paper to Cabinet.

## Feedback sought on the draft Cabinet paper

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7. The attached draft Cabinet paper (Annex One) identifies agencies responsible for providing resources critical to the effective delivery of New Zealand's managed isolation and quarantine services, these being: the Ministry of Health (MoH), District Health Boards (DHBs), the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), and the Aviation Security Service (Avsec).
8. We note that managed isolation and quarantine services could not be safely and successfully provided without the support of the MoH, DHBs, and the New Zealand Police given the unique skill sets and statutory powers associated with the delivery of their services.
9. The services provided by the NZDF and Avsec could be provided under an alternative model, but this would come at additional cost and significant transition time would be needed to develop the alternative workforce.
10. The tight turnaround means we have not been able to develop a joint paper that fully addresses the issues and risks carried by those agencies in their support for managed isolation and quarantine services. They are, however, aware of this work and had an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Cabinet paper.
11. For this reason, the draft Cabinet paper focuses on the risks and issues carried by MBIE. We have also focused on the risks posed to MIQ by the re-deployment of NZDF resources noting the absence of an agreement from Cabinet to underpin the arrangement.

## Feedback sought on options for taking advice to Cabinet

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12. We have identified the three following options for you to take this advice to Cabinet:
  - a. Minister for COVID-19 Response
  - b. Ministers for COVID-19 Response and Defence
  - c. Insert into Managed Isolation and Quarantine Operating and Funding Cabinet paper.
13. Each of the options requires a judgement to be made about how you would like to work with your Cabinet colleagues. For this reason, we have not identified a preferred option.

### Option 1: Minister for COVID-19 Response

14. Option 1 would see you taking a paper directly to Cabinet, with little opportunity for other agencies or your Cabinet colleagues to contribute to its development.
15. The paper could be completed relatively quickly and could be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 30 November as part of the package of papers being co-ordinated by the Public Service Commission. As a separate paper within the package, it would draw your colleagues' attention to the risks posed to the delivery of managed isolation and quarantine services in the event of resources being re-deployed.
16. You could seek an in-principle agreement for key agencies to continue providing resources. However, you colleagues would not have the information about the implications such a commitment might have on those agencies.
17. Option 1 would, in essence, achieve some interim commitments and be a conversation starter where Cabinet could ask agencies to provide joint advice in the New Year. The draft Cabinet paper provided in Annex One is written as if for Option 1.

### Option 2: Ministers of COVID-19 Response and Defence

18. Option 2 would see MBIE working with the Ministry of Defence and NZDF to develop a joint paper for you would take to Cabinet with the Minister of Defence.
19. The paper would have greater scope and depth of analysis than the advice we could provide under Option 1. You would be able to provide a firmer recommendation around resourcing commitments to support managed isolation and quarantine.
20. Your colleagues would have advice on risks and implications for all agencies involved, and greater clarity around the trade-offs they would be making should they be asked to re-prioritise resources. However, it also means that the current informal arrangements would continue for the next few months, without any clear commitments.
21. This option requires more time for officials to develop the paper. We understand that while the Ministry of Defence and NZDF have work underway to better understand and manage the implications of ongoing supporting managed isolation and quarantine, their analysis is unlikely to be completed this calendar year.
22. We understand that the Ministry of Defence and NZDF support this option.

### Option 3: Incorporate into the Cabinet paper about MIQ operating model

23. Option 3 would see your Cabinet paper – *Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) Operating Model and Funding* – updated to include a paragraph describing the risk around MIQ's dependency on resources provided by other agencies and recommendations seeking an in-principle agreement to continued support, and a joint report back in the New Year.

24. While this option is expedient, there is a risk the issue will be overshadowed by a discussion on costs and funding for MIQ. Given the existing length and breadth of the paper, information on this topic would likely need to be abbreviated relative to Option 1 or 2.
25. The timeframe is tight. Officials are progressing five COVID-19 related Cabinet papers – one of which the MIQ operating model paper – with a view to the package being considered by Cabinet at its meeting on Monday, 30 November.
26. The five papers were submitted to the Public Service Commission on Friday, 20 November. The Commission is taking responsibility for ensuring the papers are aligned and will be seeking Ministers' advice on how they want to manage the package. We would need to insert the amendments through the Commission's process.
27. We understand that the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Ministry of Transport prefer this option.

## **Next steps**

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28. The attached draft Cabinet paper is in the final stages of editing following agency feedback. While most comments have been incorporated, we will provide you with a final proofed version on Monday 23 November 2020.
29. We ask that you provide us with feedback on the draft Cabinet paper and preferences around how you want to proceed.
30. Your office will need to consider whether you want the issue / paper:
  - a. raised in the context of other COVID-19 Cabinet papers on 30 November, or
  - b. delayed until the New Year.
31. If your preference is to take the draft paper to Cabinet on 30 November, the paper will need to be included in the package being coordinated by the Public Service Commission. The Commission is aware that the paper may need to be incorporated into its package.

## **Annex**

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Annex One: Draft Cabinet Paper – New Zealand Defence Force and Aviation Security support for Managed Isolation and Quarantine

## **Annex One**

### **Draft Cabinet Paper – New Zealand Defence Force and Aviation Security support for Managed Isolation and Quarantine**

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NB: not provided under Free and Frank advice as remained in draft as joint paper agreed to between the agencies instead.