



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Chris Hipkins	Portfolio	COVID 19 Response
Title of Cabinet paper	COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2021: Authorisation for submission to Executive Council	Date to be published	29 October 2021

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2021	COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2021: Authorisation for submission to Executive Council	Office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response
12 July 2021	Additional Item: COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Regulations: Power to Act CAB-21-MIN-0284	Cabinet Office
9 August 2021	COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2021 CAB-21-MIN-0303	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO [select one]

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2021

Portfolio COVID-19 Response

On 9 August 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that on 9 July 2021, the government announced managed return flights from New South Wales would start on 13 July 2021 for people who have been unable to return to New Zealand due to the pause of quarantine-free travel (QFT);
- 2 **noted** that the government also announced that returnees must enter Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) for 14 days and that they will not be invoiced;
- 3 **noted** that to give effect to the government decisions, amendments to the COVID-19 Public Health (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations) are required;
- 4 **noted** that Cabinet authorised the Minister for COVID-19 Response to take decisions on the proposed amendments to the Regulations to provide for a Ministerial waiver and refund of MIQ charges so that the amendments can be drafted as soon as possible [CAB-21-MIN-0284];
- 5 **noted** that the Parliamentary Counsel Office has drafted amendments to the Regulations based on the Minister's decisions and that the draft Amendment Regulations are attached;
- 6 **agreed** to the following amendments to the Regulations:
 - 6.1 to provide for a Ministerial power to waive MIQ charges for classes of people in certain circumstances;
 - 6.2 that the Ministerial power to waive MIQ charges is limited to:
 - 6.2.1 where border setting changes impose a new and temporary requirement for returnees to enter MIQ; or
 - 6.2.2 travellers from Australia; and
 - 6.2.3 the Minister considers such a waiver or refund appropriate;
 - 6.3 that the Regulations require the waiver to be gazetted and published on a publicly accessible internet site maintained by or on behalf of the New Zealand Government when this power is exercised;

- 6.4 to remove the requirement for the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to issue invoices where the amount of MIQ charges a person is liable to pay is zero;
- 7 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2021 [PCO23973/8.0];
- 8 **noted** that a waiver of the 28-day rule for the Amendment Regulations is sought:
- 8.1 so that the amendments can come into force on 10 August 2021 at 12.01am;
- 8.2 on the grounds that the fee waivers can be issued as soon as possible with respect to the recent returnees affected by the pause to the Quarantine Free Travel arrangements with New South Wales;
- 8.3 on the grounds that the changes are minor and confer only benefits to the public;
- 9 **agreed** to waive the 28 day rule to enable the Amendment Regulations to come into force on 10 August 2021 at 12.01am.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet