



## BRIEFING

### Update post Senior Officials Group meeting: out of cycle group allocation requests and pipeline of upcoming border exception requests

<b>Date:</b>	6 August 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-0300

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins <b>Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<b>Note</b> given pressures on MIQ, including the NSW response and recent decisions by ministers on holding rooms in contingency for RSE workers, there is very limited additional space for additional groups in 2021	13 August 2021
Hon Kris Faafoi <b>Minister of Immigration</b>	<b>Agree</b> to defer any decisions on further border class exceptions until you are satisfied that the additional demand this will generate is manageable within MIQ capacity constraints  <b>[Minister for COVID-19 Response]</b>  <b>Agree</b> either to a process, including timing, for out-of-cycle group allocations <b>OR</b> to not make any out-of-cycle decisions.	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Privacy of natural persons	Manager, Allocation and Supply, MIQ	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Ruth Isaac	General Manager, Employment, Skills and Immigration Policy		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Ministry of Education, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Social Development, The Treasury, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Health, SportNZ, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise

**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 Withdrawn           |



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#### Purpose

This briefing provides an update following the Senior Officials group meeting on 29 July 2021 and seeks your decisions on:

- responding to out-of-cycle group allocations, and
- deferring decisions on further border class exceptions until you are confident that there will be space in MIQ to absorb the additional demand.

#### Recommended action

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

##### *Senior Officials Group*

- a **Note** that the Senior Officials Group on Border Exceptions met on 29 July 2021, to discuss:
- a. the pipeline of upcoming requests for border exceptions
  - b. out of cycle group allocation requests, and
  - c. implementing approved class exceptions that require booking on the Managed Isolation Allocation System (MIAS)

*Noted*

##### *MIQ capacity and demand*

- b **Note** that the MIQ system is currently under significant pressure due to:
- a. The suspension of the QFT arrangement with Australia and implementing managed return flights from New South Wales
  - b. Minister's recent decisions to hold additional rooms in contingency for RSE workers;
  - c. Very high demand from New Zealanders wanting to return home
  - d. High demand from 'groups' to access additional vouchers in addition to the groups allocation packages previously agreed by Border Ministers

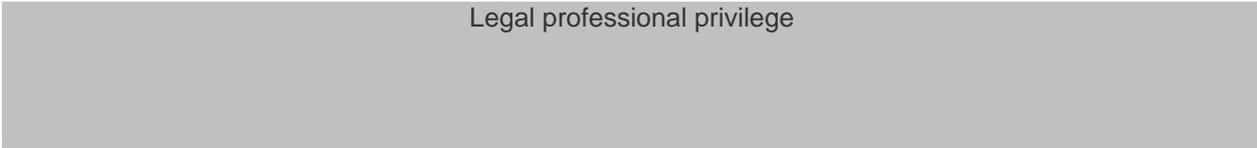
*Noted*

- c **Note** that previous decisions on the following border settings, once implemented, will further add to demand for MIQ space:
- a. Broadening border settings (for offshore residence visa holders, families of all temporary visa holders, and for critical workers)
  - b. Class exceptions (for 615 deep sea fishing crew, five port crane operators, and 1000 international students)

c. Additions to the Government-approved events list (for the Bledisloe Cup 2021, the Rugby Championship 2021, and the Summer of Cricket 2021/22).

a **Note** that there are currently no vouchers available on MIAS, and any vouchers released are booked extremely quickly, meaning that some New Zealanders are potentially facing an up to six month delay to return home

*Noted*

b  Legal professional privilege

### **MIAS and group allocations**

c **Note** that the group allocation is fully subscribed until March 2022, apart from a very small number of spaces available in late 2021 and early 2022.

*Noted*

d **Note** the Minister for Covid-19 Response has previously agreed not to accept out-of-cycle group allocation requests

*Noted*

e **Note** that officials are working to direct agencies to use other options, such as the Time-Sensitive Travel allocation.

*Noted*

f **Note** officials are conducting a review of the Time-Sensitive Travel to ensure its criteria and size are fit-for-purpose, which we will brief you on separately

*Noted*

### **Minister for Covid-19 Response**

#### **Either**

g **Agree** to the process for out-of-cycle group allocation decisions outlined at paragraph 33

*Agree/ **Disagree** / Discuss*

#### **OR [recommended]**

h **Agree** to re-confirm your decision not to accept out of cycle group allocation requests and to communicate this to your Ministerial colleagues **and release any unallocated rooms onto MIAS**

***Agree** / Disagree / Discuss*

### **Amending the New Zealand Cricket allocation**

i **Agree** to allow the change to the New Zealand Cricket allocation size and date, as the change is minor in the context of the wider group allocation and can be accommodated

***Agree** / Disagree / Discuss*

I'm happy to delegate to officials the ability to make minor changes to group allocations where the impact on overall MIQ capacity is negligible.

**Further decisions on border exceptions**

j **Note** that officials will provide advice on MIQ demand and capacity in early September to inform decisions on timeframes to commence the phased entry of broader border settings [briefing 2122-0198 refers].

*Noted*

k **Agree** to defer any decisions on further border class exceptions (excluding a decision on the Manu Folau) until you are satisfied that the additional demand this will generate is manageable within MIQ capacity constraints.

**Agree** Disagree/ Discuss

l **Note** that this would mitigate the risk of adding further demand to MIQ capacity in 2021, but allows you to consider border exception requests that impact on demand for MIQ in 2022 but where certainty is likely to be essential for project planning, or where numbers are small and can be managed through manual allocations.

*Noted*

Privacy of natural persons

**Manager, Allocation and Supply  
MIQ Policy, MBIE**

6 / 8 / 21



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

11 / 8 / 2021



**Ruth Isaac  
General Manager, Employment, Skills and  
Immigration Policy  
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE**

6 / 8 / 21

**Hon Kris Faafoi  
Minister of Immigration**

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## Background

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1. The Senior Officials Group on Border Exceptions (SOG) met on 29 July 2021, to discuss:
  - a. the pipeline of upcoming requests for border exceptions
  - b. out of cycle group allocation requests, and
  - c. implementing approved class exceptions that require booking on the Managed Isolation Allocation System (MIAS).
2. SOG did not refer any requests to the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group, but agreed to provide Ministers with visibility over border exceptions and group Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) requests (received and in the pipeline).

### **We anticipate there will be an oral item at Cabinet on Monday 9 August regarding primary sector labour shortages**

3. We note that the Minister for Primary Industries is taking an oral item to Cabinet on Monday 9 August, covering worker demand across the primary industries and barriers to workers entering the country. The primary sector has been one of the largest beneficiaries of border class exception decisions but significant workforce pressures continue. However, other sectors are also experiencing labour and skills shortages including for example the construction industry and the technology sector.

### **Previous decisions on border settings, combined with the pause on quarantine-free travel with Australia, will add to demand for MIQ space**

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4. Border Ministers met in early July and agreed to a MIQ group allocation package for November to March 2022 (Annex One). They also referred to Cabinet a number of border exceptions which were approved as set out in the table below [CAB-21-MIN-0278 refers]:

<b>Broadening border exceptions (the timing of these changes has not yet been confirmed – and is subject to final ministerial decisions)</b>	<p>Agreed to a border exemption for offshore residence visa holders (~5,000 people)</p> <p>Agreed to lower the salary threshold for longer-term (longer than six months) other critical workers to 1.5 times the median wage and maintain all other criteria</p> <p>Agreed, in principle, to a border exception for all partners and dependents of eligible temporary work visa holders (estimated ~ 8,500 people)</p>
<b>Class exceptions</b>	<p>Agreed to establish border class exceptions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 615 deep sea fishing crew from July 2021 to September 2022 (MIQ space allocated to the majority of this group)</li><li>• Up to five port crane operators (book on MIAS)</li><li>• Up to 1000 international students (book on MIAS)</li></ul>

<b>Additions to Government-approved events list</b>	<p>Noted that Border Ministers agreed to add the following events to the Government-approved events list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer of Cricket 2021/22</li> <li>• Bledisloe Cup 2021</li> <li>• Rugby Championship 2021</li> </ul>
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5. You will be receiving advice on MIQ capacity and demand in early September, which will inform decisions on timing the implementation of the broader border settings [briefing 2122-0198 refers].
6. On 11 August 2021, the Minister of Immigration and the Minister for Economic and Regional Development are taking a paper to the Cabinet Economic Development Committee on investor visa settings. This includes a proposal to create border exceptions for:
  - up to 50 Global Impact visa holders, and
  - those who hold Investor 1 visas, are approved in principle, or will become eligible as their applications are progressed (currently 67 are eligible).
7. In addition to the decisions made in July (and the proposed border exceptions for investors), there are further requests for border class exceptions in the pipeline.

### **MIQ is experiencing significant demand for vouchers through to November 2021**

#### *Current demand*

8. MIQ is currently under significant pressure due to:
  - The suspension of the QFT arrangement with Australia and implementing managed return flights from New South Wales;
  - Ministers' recent decisions to hold additional rooms in contingency in September and November for RSE workers;
  - Very high demand from New Zealanders wanting to return home and from people with a critical purpose border exception to enter New Zealand;
  - High demand from 'groups' to access vouchers in addition to the group allocation packages previously agreed by Border Ministers.
9. Demand for vouchers on MIAS is very high. The following table shows the increase in activity on the MIAS website from May 2021 to August 2021:

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Number of unique users per day (average over timeframe)</b>
1 – 7 May 2021	5,139
1 – 7 June 2021	4,944
1 – 7 July 2021	15,047
27 July – 3 August	19,194
3 August	21,456

10. Due to the above decisions in paragraph 8, MBE has not been able to implement any large voucher releases on MIAS since 7 July 2021. This high demand is expected to continue for future voucher releases for the summer period.
11. High demand for MIAS vouchers and limited voucher availability means that we will likely see increased demand for other pathways into MIQ, such as the group allocation and the Time-Sensitive Travel allocation.

*Emirates has lifted their suspension on flights from Very High Risk countries, which may further increase demand and the number of positive cases presenting at the border*

12. On 4 August 2021, Emirates announced that, as of 5 August 2021, they will end their suspension on travellers from a number of Very High Risk countries, including India. This will remove one of the major barriers to eligible travellers from India reaching New Zealand.
13. As of last week, MIAS data shows that about 1,500 travellers from India hold almost 900 rooms between mid-July through to the end of November. Of those, about one third are likely eligible to travel despite Very High Risk country travel restrictions. As such, there will likely be a higher number of travellers coming from India into MIQ.
14. Ministers are currently considering whether India should be removed from the Very High Risk Country list, which would further increase demand.

### **The Quarantine-Free Travel pause with Australia has placed greater demands on MIQ**

15. On 22 June, quarantine-free travel with New South Wales was paused. The Government commenced managed return flights since 13 July 2021, with travellers required to stay in MIQ. We have used the QFT reserve (of 500 rooms) to allow eligible people to return from New South Wales. These rooms are being fully utilised until 22 August, which is the end of Phase 3. No decisions have been made for any flights or the use of the QFT rooms for the period after 22 August.
16. At 11.59pm on 23 July, the pause on quarantine-free travel was widened to all of Australia. Eligible people had until 11.59pm 30 July 2021 to return to New Zealand, after which the QFT suspension came into effect. Any travel from Australia after this date is to occur on managed red flights, however there are currently none in place (aside from New South Wales flights) as MIQ is facing significant demand.

### **NZBORA legal risks**

17.

Legal professional privilege

### **The group allocation process**

18. Group allocation requests are presented in packages to the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group, covering periods of five months at a time. This process allows for the groups to be considered in different configurations, evaluating the requests in relation to each other. Once the group allocations are decided, then any significant changes to the content of a group allocation request, or the agreed package, should return to the Border Exceptions Ministerial group for consideration [briefing 2021-3123 refers].
19. In March 2021, the Minister for COVID-19 Response agreed to not consider out-of-cycle group allocation requests. Instead, he agreed to bring the subsequent decision forward, to

consider the further requests as part of the next package. There was no decision made around the process for any future out-of-cycle group allocation requests.

20. The most recent Border Exceptions Ministerial group meeting took place in early July, and decided on the allocation of vouchers to groups for the period November 2021-March 2022. The next decision round on group allocations will consider the package of group requests for the April 2022-August 2022 period. Based on previous timing of decision, the decisions for the April-August period will likely take place in late 2021.

#### *Vouchers 'left over' from the November 2021 – March 2022 Group allocation package*

21. There are a small number of rooms not allocated for group allocations in late 2021 and early 2022. These are typically released on MIAS following final confirmation of the group package. Given high demand from groups, and the uncertainty of the wider Australia response, these rooms have not yet been released. We seek your [Minister for COVID-19 response] direction on whether these remaining rooms should be released on MIAS, and continue to be held for possible future group allocations. Given the high demand on MIAS, Legal professional privilege we recommend these vouchers are released in MIAS. **Annex One** provides an overview group allocations to date.
22. We note that large and complex groups place enormous pressure on both our central groups planning team and frontline staff. That complexity is from end to end: from the time that a group is approved (planning and logistics for the group, planning and logistics for individuals with complex needs, identifying and procuring wrap around support required, working with Health on bespoke requirements that require exemptions) to the time that a group departs MIQ (on the ground support, ensuring that groups comply with MIQ IPC and other requirements, translation services, medical support for complex needs etc.)
23. Groups are a significant source of breaches within MIQ – these breaches carry very serious public health risks. Unlike returning New Zealanders who enter via MIAS vouchers, they often need intensive supervision, support, and re-education to reinforce the IPC and other requirements of being in MIQ. This is even more labour-intensive (particularly for the health workforce) for sports teams for example who are granted an exemption to train while in MIQ. This is particularly prevalent and difficult when few or no members of the group speak English. As such, a facility that is providing managed isolation to a large and/or complex group carries a significantly heavier workload and risk than a facility that has only MIAS returnees.

### **Demand for border exceptions and group allocations is likely to increase further**

24. SOG anticipates demand for space in MIQ over the coming months from both inside and outside New Zealand:
  - **From people outside New Zealand seeking to enter:** demand from employers to bring in critical workers to address labour and skills shortages and demand from New Zealanders wishing to return home
  - **From people currently in New Zealand who want certainty of MIQ to enable overseas travel :** demand from key personnel in the public and private sectors to attend face-to-face meetings overseas, and for people representing New Zealanders in events (e.g. All Blacks end of year tour).

#### **Pipeline for border exception requests**

25. SOG continues to receive requests for border exceptions and group allocations, and anticipates further requests over the coming weeks.

SOG has received one request for a border exception...

26. At its meeting on 29 July, SOG has considered a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to add the Tuvalu Maritime Strengthening Project to the Government-approved programmes list. This involves 14 people entering New Zealand to undertake urgent and essential repairs to the Government vessel the *MV Manu Folau*. SOG requested further information, which will be considered at its next meeting. If added to the Government-approved programmes list, spaces for the ship's crew are likely to be secured through the Time Sensitive Travel allocation.

...and anticipates further requests from the pipeline

27. We are aware of eight requests for border class exceptions under development but not yet submitted, set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Pipeline of requests for border exceptions**

Agency	Request	Timing and numbers	Status
MFAT	New (not returning) ODA-funded Manaaki New Zealand scholars under a range of scholarship types and durations	Up to 400, timing to be determined	Early stage of development
MPI	Halal slaughterers	Up to 45 over August-December	Likely to be considered at next SOG (12 August)
	Rural contractors	Up to 275, timing to be determined	Early stage of development
	Seafood processors	Timing and numbers to be determined	Early stage of development
NZTE	Digital industry technical and business skills	Timing and numbers to be determined	Early stage of development
MBIE	NASA space balloon programme	Numbers to be determined, timing by March 2022	Early stage of development
Oranga Tamariki	Social workers	Timing and numbers to be determined	Early stage of development
Department of Internal Affairs	Stud grooms and stallion handlers	Up to 20, timing to be determined	Early stage of development

### Out-of-cycle group allocation requests

28. Officials are aware of a number of groups who are looking to, or have made, out-of-cycle group allocation requests. There may be more groups who intend to make such requests, that we are not yet aware of. If MIAS vouchers continue to be difficult to obtain, then it is

likely that we will see more group requests, including sector-specific monthly allocation requests like the Construction Sector Allocation and requests related to border exceptions.

29. Officials are conducting a separate review of the Time-Sensitive Travel allocation, to ensure that the settings are fit for purpose and provide a viable pathway for agencies aside from the group allocation.
30. There are a number of groups which are signalling that they would like an out-of-cycle group allocation, given that packages through to March 2022 have already been allocated. The following groups have indicated that they want an out-of-cycle group allocation, categorised by the reason:

*Border exception granted, and expected to book on MIAS, but no available vouchers on MIAS*

- Rural contractors, shearers and vets
- Non-BATM fishers
- Dubai expo (a component)

*Request to increase/change timing of an existing allocation*

- New Zealand Cricket (see paragraphs 37-40 below)
- Women's Cricket World Cup (see paragraphs 41-44 below)
- Netherlands Men's Cricket team – moving the allocation from January to March 2022.

31. There are also concerns emerging around the impact of MIQ restrictions on the ability of screen productions to locate in New Zealand, therefore impacting on activity and employment in the screen sector. MBIE understands there may also be issues with New Zealanders returning after working on productions offshore, creating risks to the pipeline of New Zealand productions. Advice on these issues is being prepared for the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and the Minister for Economic and Regional Development in the first instance. This advice will be consulted on with MIQ officials and MIQ Ministers as appropriate.
32. More broadly, due to the lack of available vouchers on MIAS, pressure is growing from other groups for a dedicated MIQ allocation to alleviate skills and labour shortages including from the primary industries, employers of critical workers (e.g. the tech sector), and the construction sector.

## **Process for out-of-cycle requests**

*New requests*

33. As noted above, there is no agreed process for out-of-cycle group allocation requests. In May 2021, officials proposed the following process, but it was not agreed to as the decision for group requests was instead brought forward [briefing 2021-3770 refers]:

*Proposed out of cycle group allocation process*

- a. If an agency becomes aware of a need to make an out-of-cycle request, they should engage with MIQ at an early stage for information about MIQ pathways and capacity. Requests for out-of-cycle allocations should be made in a letter from the relevant portfolio Minister to you that includes:
  - i. The benefits associated with this group allocation request
  - ii. Why the decision to allocate MIQ rooms to the group cannot wait until the next scheduled packages meeting

- iii. An outline of what attempts the agency has made to mitigate the need for an out-of-cycle decision, including efforts to book on MIAS and
  - iv. The scale and likelihood of adverse consequences if a decision is not made prior to consideration of group allocation packages.
- b. If you agree to accept the out-of-cycle request, the EOI will be presented to the Border Exceptions Ministerial Group for their consideration and decision.
34. We suggest a **very high threshold** for these request as they will be after the relevant 'group allocation package' has been confirmed and therefore very little, or no, space will be available in MIQ to accommodate these requests.
35. We suggest that minor date changes, and requests for small additional numbers that can be accommodate within the existing group allocation cap (e.g., 1-10 spaces) are considered and agreed by the Minister for COVID-19 Response. Any large requests should be re-considered by Border Ministers.

#### *Considering out-of-cycle requests*

36. Given the high demand on MIAS, **Legal professional privilege** we recommend that any out-of-cycle group allocation requests are not considered, and that the remaining vouchers are released in MIAS.
37. We seek your direction on whether to either:
- a. Re-confirm your decision to not accept any out-of-cycle group allocation request, and communicate this to your ministerial colleagues [recommended]; OR
  - b. Agree to the above process for out-of-cycle requests, noting there nonetheless remains very limited space available for any groups for the group allocation periods that have already been allocated and agreed by Border Ministers.

#### **Amending the New Zealand Cricket allocation**

38. As noted above, you have received a specific request to amend the New Zealand Cricket allocation, from the Minister for Sport and Recreation. The request was to adjust both the size and the timing of the allocation:
- a. Arrival date: change from 4/5 October to 7 October
  - b. Size: increase from 20 to 24 people
39. In April 2021, you agreed that any significant changes to the content of a group allocation request, or the agreed package, should return to the Ministerial group for consideration and approval [briefing 2021-3123 refers].
40. Increasing the allocation would have an impact on the group allocation. Moving the date pushes some days over the cap for the group allocation, but once averaged out over the month, does not exceed the limit.
41. We recommend that you agree to allow this change to New Zealand Cricket, given that the change does not push the group allocation over the cap for the month of October. As the changes are relatively minor in the context of the wider group allocation, then it is likely not a significant change and the decision would not need to return to the Ministerial group for consideration and approval.

#### **Women's Cricket World Cup group allocation**

42. On 4 August 2021, New Zealand Major Events submitted a proposal for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 (WCWC) allocation to be increased from 181 spaces to a maximum of 489 spaces (some of these people are dependents and guardians who will share rooms). This request consists of an additional 308 international participants, consisting of 101 broadcast crew, ICC staff to support event delivery, commercial partners, media, key suppliers, dependents and guardians arriving over January and February 2022.
43. The briefing requested that you agree to discuss the viability of the WCWC with the Minister for Economic and Regional Development, and the Minister for Sport and Recreation [briefing 2122-0178 refers].
44. As noted above, any significant changes to the content of a group allocation request, or the agreed package, should return to the Ministerial group for consideration and approval [briefing 2021-3123 refers].
45. We note that this proposal does not include 148 people travelling from Australia, who would be reliant on quarantine-free travel. NZ Major Events and Sport NZ questioned whether QFT contingency or RSE spaces could be used to accommodate the 148 people from Australia.

## Future decisions

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### *Future Border class exceptions*

46. Officials recommend you defer any decisions on allowing further border class exception requests until you are confident there is space in MIQ to absorb them.
47. Previous decisions on border exceptions and exemptions are about to be implemented. Combined with the pause on Quarantine-Free Travel with Australia, these decisions will add to the demand for MIQ space (though some groups will be flexible with timing). Officials therefore recommend deferring any decisions on allowing further border class exception requests, until you are confident that there will be space in MIQ to absorb more border exceptions.
48. This would mitigate the risk of adding further demand to MIQ capacity in 2021. You may however wish to consider border exception requests that impact on demand for MIQ in 2022 but where certainty is likely to be essential for project planning (e.g. the NASA space balloon programme), or where numbers are small and can be managed through manual allocations (e.g. the Tuvalu Maritime Strengthening Project).

## Next steps

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49. Agree to allow the change in size and arrival date for the New Zealand Cricket allocation.
50. Decide whether or not to accept out-of-cycle group allocation requests, Legal professional privilege
51. Should you agree to defer making any decisions on allowing further border exception requests, officials will provide advice on likely timeframes where additional demand could be absorbed, in early September.

## Annexes

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Annex One: Approved group allocations and border exceptions

## Annex One: Approved group allocations and border exceptions

**Table Two** and **Table Three** provide an overview of the group allocations and number of rooms allocated between November 2021 and March 2022. We note that when it comes to large and complex groups the physical rooms are only a small component of the challenge. The overwhelming majority of the challenges comes from the intensive planning and frontline requirements, support needs, and increased risk of breaches that large and complex groups result in.

**Table Two: Group allocation from November 2021-March 2022**

Approx. date	Groups
Early November	39 Antarctic programme 30 Rugby league disability team 40 fishers 60 Construction Sector Accord 25 NZTE
Late November	189 Antarctic programme 80 Expo 65 All Blacks 65 Black Ferns 20 Black Caps
Early December	76 NZDF 68 Cricket (Black Caps and Bangladesh) 60 Construction Sector Accord 25 NZTE
Late December	65 Antarctic programme 108 refugees
Early January	170 Antarctic programme 60 Construction Sector Accord 35 Netherlands cricket
Late January	36 Antarctic programme 60 Expo 62 Cricket World Cup 60 NZDF 24 Silver Ferns
Early February	115 refugees 120 Expo 31 Cricket World Cup

	50 Antarctic programme 35 South Africa cricket
Late February	60 Construction Sector Accord 90 Cricket World Cup 44 Expo 53 Winter Olympics 80 NZDF
Early March	60 Construction Sector Accord 25 Expo
Late March	112 refugees 11 Winter Paralympics

**Table Three: Rooms allocated to groups from November 2021-March 2022**

Time period	Allocated rooms	Cap on allocable rooms
Early November	194	400
Late November	419	400
Early December	229	400
Late December	173	400
Early January	265	400
Late January	242	400
Early February	351	400
Late February	327	400
Early March	85	400
Late March	123	400

Table Four provides an overview of the approved border exceptions for classes of workers to date

**Table Four: Border class exceptions approved**

Sector	Border exception(s)	Numbers
Primary industries	Deepwater fishing crew	570
Primary industries	Agricultural mobile plant operators (to April 2021)	210
Primary industries	Mixed and large animal veterinarians	30

Primary industries	Shearers (to March 2021)	60
Primary industries	Recognised Seasonal Employer workers	2000
Primary industries	Assistant dairy farm managers, 2ICs or dairy herd managers	150
Primary industries	Dairy farm assistants	50
Primary industries	Agricultural and horticultural mobile plant operators (from June 2021)	125
Primary industries	Shearers (from June 2021)	40
Education	Early learning teachers and primary/secondary school teachers	300
Primary industries	Deepwater fishing crew	615
Transport	Port crane operators	5
Education	Degree-level students	1000

Table Five provides an overview of the major government-approved programmes, government-approved events and government-to-government agreements so far

**Table Five: Major government-approved programmes, government-approved events and government-to-government agreements**

Government-approved programmes	Government-approved events	Government-to-government agreements
Rocket lab launches	BWF Junior World Championships (Badminton)	The Antarctic Programme
Mutual Assistance Programme (Defence Programme)	ICC Women's World Cup	
Pacific Leadership Development Programme (Defence programme)	New Zealand Golf Open	
Recruitment and personnel exchange programmes (Defence programmes)	36 <sup>th</sup> America's Cup	
Defence capability programmes (Defence programme)	ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships	
Replacement international fishing crew for foreign-	Crankworx	

flagged fishing vessels operating in international waters		
Kāinga Ora build and urban development programme	IronMan 70.3 World Championship 2020	
Innovative Partnerships	The Pioneer	
New Zealand Trade & Enterprise Investment Attraction Programme	Winter Games	
	Women's Rugby World Cup	
	WSL Challenger Series Piha Pro	
	XVI WSBC Men's Softball World Championship	
	Ocean Race 2022	
	FIFA Women's World Cup 2023	
	Bledisloe Cup 2020	
	Taini Jamison Trophy	
	International West Indian Men's Cricket Tour of New Zealand	
	International Pakistan Men's Cricket Tour of New Zealand	
	The 'Summer of Cricket' series	
	The Constellation Cup	
	Fijian Rugby Team Tour of New Zealand	
	Bledisloe Cup 2021	
	Rugby Championship 2021	
	The 'Summer of Cricket' 2021/22	