



## BRIEFING

### Proactive release of Cabinet paper: COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2020

<b>Date:</b>	5 March 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Low
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2021-2629

Action sought		
Minister	Action sought	Deadline
Minister for COVID-19 Response	<b>Agree</b> to the release of the Cabinet paper  <b>Agree</b> to the release of the supporting documents  <b>Agree</b> to the proposed redactions	9 March 2021

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact	
Kara Isaac	GM, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons		
Privacy of natural persons	Policy Manager, System and Strategy			✓
	Senior Policy Advisor			

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			

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 Withdrawn           |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

The purpose of this briefing is to seek your agreement to proactively release the Cabinet paper COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2020 and supporting documents. MBIE proposes to release this information on 10 March 2021.

### Recommended action

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

- a **Agree** to release the Cabinet paper COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2020 and supporting documents

*Agree / Disagree*

Kara Isaac  
GM, MIQ Policy

5 / 3 / 21

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister for COVID-19 Response

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## Background

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1. On 16 December 2020, you took the following paper and supporting documents to the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) – 'COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2020' (the Regulations). Cabinet authorised CBC to have power to Act to make decisions.
2. Cabinet agreed to amend the Regulations to charge critical workers the higher fee of \$5,520 (including GST) for the first/only person in a room. The change to the Regulations came into force on 1 January 2021.
3. The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has now reviewed the Cabinet paper (**Annex 1**) and associated documents (the Supplementary Analysis Report – **Annex 2** and Cabinet minute – **Annex 3**) for proactive release.

## Risks with releasing the material

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4. The SAR contains information on the unintended consequences from developing the Regulations at pace. This may generate media interest. It does however note (along with the Cabinet paper) that MBIE will be undertaking a broader review of the fees system (the Review).
5. The purpose of the Review is to examine the performance of the fees system to date and recommend areas for immediate improvement [2021 – 2360 refers]. The Review is already underway and is looking at who is liable and the appropriate levels of the fees. The Review will take into account any consequences from the development and amendment of the Regulations.
6. The SAR also notes the difficulties with assessing the impacts of the proposals. This is because of the data that was available at the time. We continue to refine our data set and will highlight the gaps in our information as part of the Review.

## Recommendation

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7. We recommend the proactive release of the Cabinet paper with two redactions, in accordance with section 9(2)(h) of the Official Information Act 1982 (legal professional privilege).
8. We recommend that the Supplementary Analysis Report (SAR) and Cabinet minute (CBC-20-MIN-0136) are released in full.
9. The proposed document for proactive release is relevant to key decisions made by the Government to approve border class exceptions for a cohort of Recognised Seasonal Employees (RSE) workers to enter New Zealand for work purposes.
10. The Ministry has prepared a Q&A and information sheet to support any media queries MIQ or the Minister's office may receive in relation to the Cabinet paper.

## Consultation

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11. MIQ Communications at MBIE have been notified of the proposed release of information.

## Annexes

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Annex 1: Cabinet paper - COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2020' (the Regulations).

Annex 2: Cabinet Business Committee Minute CBC-20-MIN-0136.

Annex 3: Supplementary Analysis Report

Annex 1: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15140-covid-19-public-health-response-managed-isolation-and-quarantine-charges-amendment-regulations-2020-proactiverelease-pdf>

Annex 3: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15146-impact-statement-amendments-to-the-covid-19-public-health-response-managed-isolation-and-quarantine-charges-regulations-2020-proactiverelease-pdf>

Annex 2: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15143-covid-19-public-health-response-managed-isolation-and-quarantine-charges-amendment-regulations-2020-minute-of-release-proactiverelease-pdf>