

10/02/2021

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Craig MacDonell

By email: fyi-request-14374-27ef5d80@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H202100068

Dear Craig MacDonell

Transfer of your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 11 January 2021 for information relating to COVID-19 returnees from higher risk countries.

You asked specifically for the following information:

“Please provide the data that New Zealand has that definitively proves that passengers are boarding flights bound for New Zealand with the virus already present.”

“Please provide an explanation of how the pre-departure testing system will create a safer and more efficient MIQ system in light of the outbreaks reported after pre-departure testing in the Russian fishermen and Pakistan cricket team groups, given the validity period of such a test and the time it takes to travel (particularly from the UK which you have used repeatedly as an example in press releases and when speaking to media)”

“Please provide data to show there has been a statistically significant increase in cases being found in MIQ facilities from United Kingdom sources since the latest rise in cases began (approximately September). Please provide equivalent data for August as well for a pre-rise comparison.”

“Please provide an explanation of the consultation undertaken with overseas residents around the introduction of the original MIQ allocation system and charges and the additional testing requirements announced for high-risk countries (given the time to implement since the beginning of the pandemic). Please include reference to costs borne by the passenger, as well as the MIQ procedure for changing flights and days of arrival.”

The last part of the request for information for “...an explanation of the consultation undertaken with overseas residents around the introduction of the original MIQ allocation system and charges and the additional testing requirements announced for high-risk countries (given the time to implement since the beginning of the pandemic). Please include reference to costs borne by the passenger, as well as the MIQ procedure for changing flights and days of arrival” appears to be more closely associated with the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE). Accordingly, I am transferring your request to MBIE under section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to transfer your request for information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Allan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Allan
Manager, OIA Services
Office of the Director-General