



1 April 2021

Ref: DOIA 2021-1688

Afiqah Ramizi  
National President  
New Zealand International Students Association  
Email: [fyi-request-14816-a23b10b7@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14816-a23b10b7@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Afiqah Ramizi

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*In light of the new announcement made today by the MBIE, on increasing the MIQ costs for temporary visa holders from \$3100 to \$5520, please provide the complete breakdown of the MIQ costs.*

*We would like to understand the rationale for the additional \$2420 that is applicable only to temporary visa holders. This information would help us support international students who are currently offshore, and will be severely impacted by this cost increase.*

The updated Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) fee of \$5,520 (including GST) set for temporary entry class visa holders represents the average weighted cost for a single person staying in MIQ for 14 days, which MBIE is responsible for. Please note, this figure does not include the costs of any additional services provided by other Government agencies involved in MIQ, including the Ministry of Health, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Defence Force and the Aviation Security Service.

With this in mind, the table below provides a breakdown of the average weighted costs of MIQ services, at the time the original fee level of \$5,520 was set for 'other critical workers':

	Average weighted costs
MIQ facility, including accommodation and food costs.	\$3,432
Transport, including costs of transport to and from airports and MIQ facilities, including between internal flights.	\$256
Operational costs, which include MBIE personnel based in the MIQ facilities and also the regional isolation and quarantine teams, security and staff wrap-around support.	\$517
Support costs, which covers MBIE personnel involved in MIQ operations and ICT services.	\$595
<b>Total excluding GST</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>
<b>Total including GST</b>	<b>\$5,520</b>

When the fees system was introduced in August 2020, the charges were set deliberately low to balance the rights of New Zealanders to return home with having an economically sustainable MIQ system. As you

can see from the figures provided above, the current \$3,100 (including GST) fee charged to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents is significantly less than the average cost for a stay in the MIQ network.

Unlike New Zealand citizens and permanent residents, temporary entry class visa holders do not have a legally protected right to enter New Zealand. Temporary entry class visa holders enter the country primarily for economic, education or job-related reasons, and the workers, employers, students and supporting agencies receive the direct benefits of them coming into the country.

The change in the fee level supports the Government's ability to recover an amount closer to the actual costs for MIQ. This fairly reflects the benefits to both the New Zealand public of having a robust COVID-19 response system, and those who leave and enter the country. Although the new fee is closer to the actual cost of MIQ, it is important to note the Government is still subsidising some of the cost, and temporary entry class visa holders will continue to have the ability to apply for full or partial fee waivers.

I trust you find this information helpful, however, you have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available, at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kl' or 'Kl Isaac', written in a cursive style.

Kara Isaac  
General Manager  
**Managed Isolation and Quarantine Policy**