



Ref no. DOIA 2021-0845

Phil Pennington
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Dear Phil

Thank you for your emails of 14 October 2020 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE), requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I seek elaboration on the following:

'A further Health and Safety Plan sets out MBIE's plans to manage Health, Safety, Wellbeing and Security at the MIQFs. MBIE has finalised this plan since your request was made. The Plan is currently being implemented and we will seek feedback from staff for a review at the end of October and update if necessary.'

Pls advise:

- 1. ON what date was 'this plan' finalised*
- 2. When did its implementation begin*
- 3. When will that implementation finish*
- 4. PS in addition I asked MOH about the OIA questions MBIE referred to it It has replied (attached) that this information is not held by them This suggests to me a gap in MBIE's H&S system at MIQ. Is that the case?*

Original question from DOIA 2021-0389:

What MBIE has done re. its PCBU obligations regarding:

- HSWA regulation requirement for health monitoring plan*
- Requirement for exposure monitoring plan*

MBIE took over responsibility for Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ), and the associated facilities, from 13 July 2020. The Minister of Housing, Hon Dr Megan Woods, was given responsibility for Managed Isolation and Quarantine from 19 June 2020.

MBIE is currently taking steps to further improve and streamline its incident management reporting from the Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs) to MBIE, and is currently rolling out a MIQF Health Safety Wellbeing and Security Plan in order to meet its Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) reporting obligations. MBIE has established an MIQF worker participation agreement as required by the HSWA. This will result in the establishment of a Wellbeing, Health and Safety committee at each facility as part of MBIE's wellbeing, health and safety governance framework.

MBIE is also in the process of consolidating retrospective incident reporting gathered by other agencies managing MIQFs from approximately 1 July 2020.

Any incident reporting prior to this time is not held by MBIE, therefore any older incident management reporting would have been withheld under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

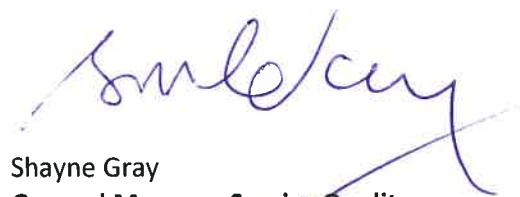
MBIE also believes that this information is not held centrally by any particular agency or organisation, given the MIQFs were set up at pace under Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 by the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC), which facilitates Central Government crisis management arrangements and offers inter-agency and scalable operability to deal with any type of emergency.

Please note also that, under the HSWA, owners of the locations used for MIQFs are obligated to conduct a risk assessment prior to accepting a contract with MBIE to provide this service and accommodate arrivals.

The Health and Safety management system was set up at pace in response to the global crisis. In this type of emergency situation, MBIE had to work quickly to develop the system, however the system is constantly being reviewed and adapted for changing circumstances and performance improvement. MBIE has placed significant focus on ensuring it meets its PCBU (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking) obligations under the HSWA associated with its new responsibilities for MIQ. To ensure a consistent approach in managing health and safety across managed isolations MBIE rolled out a Health and Safety Plan at the beginning of October 2020, in order to test its practicality as a working document. The implementation phase ran for the whole of October 2020 to ensure that the plan was fit for purpose, and, after a final review, the Plan was finalised and re-issued at the end of November, however this plan will be subject to regular review to ensure that it remains up to date with known best practice.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my response to your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Shayne Gray
General Manager Service Quality
Te Whakatairanga Service Delivery