

To: MINETT, Constance (PACREG) <Constance.Minett@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: CONWAY, Keith (PACMM) <Keith.Conway@mfat.govt.nz>; KETCHEN, Mike (PACMM) <Mike.Ketchen@mfat.govt.nz>; KELLY, Constance (PACREG) <Constance.Kelly@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Media query - Newshub - Medevacs

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi All

DEVPP had no involvement or vision of this at all and wouldn't expect to have.

Regards,

Tony

Antony Crane (he/him)

Programme Manager - Health

T s9(2)(a)

E antony.crane@mfat.govt.nz

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand
www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



Duplicate email

From: MINETT, Constance (PACREG)
Sent: Thursday, 5 August 2021 3:59 pm
To: ROBERTS, Llewellyn (DEVPP); MEDIA
Cc: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP); CRANE, Antony (DEVPP); KETCHEN, Mike (PACMM); CONWAY, Keith (PACMM); KELLY, Constance (PACREG); TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API)
Subject: RE: Media query - Newshub - Medevacs

Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Llewelyn,

Agree that medevac information is best conveyed by MOH, as they have oversight of the process.

Constance Minett

Policy Officer
Pacific Regional Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E constance.minett@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email

Released under the
Official Information Act

From: MINETT, Constance (PACREG)
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 9:18 am
To: TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API)
Subject: FW: MoH media response

Security Classification:

IN CONFIDENCE

Ensuring you are looped in. DEVPP/UNHC are leading. Unsure if it is helpful for us to insert ourselves in the process at this point.

Constance Minett

Policy Officer
Pacific Regional Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E constance.minett@mfat.govt.nz

From: HAWKE, Craig (NYK) <craig.hawke@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 July 2021 6:43 AM
To: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; KETCHEN, Mike (PACMM) <Mike.Ketchen@mfat.govt.nz>; CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>; MINETT, Constance (PACREG) <Constance.Minett@mfat.govt.nz>; CONWAY, Keith (PACMM) <Keith.Conway@mfat.govt.nz>; JEBSON, Alex (UNHC) <Alex.Jebson@mfat.govt.nz>; CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>; FRASER, Kate (DEVPP) <KateEl.Fraser@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: PODMORE, Michelle (SVA) <Michelle.Podmore@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>; FEPULEAI, Justin (NYK) <Justin.Fepuleai@mfat.govt.nz>; OJALA, Anton (PACMM) <Anton.Ojala@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; ROBERTS, Llewellyn (DEVPP) <Llewellyn.Roberts@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: MoH media response

[IN CONFIDENCE]

IN CONFIDENCE

s6(b)(ii)

We have reminded them that it is very early in NZ.

Craig

Duplicate email

From: MINETT, Constance (PACREG)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 5:11 pm
To: CONWAY, Keith (PACMM); TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API); JEBSON, Alex (UNHC); CRANE, Antony (DEVPP)
Cc: CURR, Jonathan (SVA); PATRICK, Hone (SVA); PODMORE, Michelle (SVA); MEDIA; KETCHEN, Mike (PACMM); BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC); RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC); THOMPSON, Fleur (CMD)
Subject: RE: MoH statement on Fiji to go out this afternoon

Security Classification: IN CONFIDENCE

Hi Keith and Fleur,

That media looks fine.

s9(2)(g)(i)

New Zealand is not obligated to receive UN workers. Medical evacuation requests to New Zealand are approved based on clinical need. s9(2)(g)(i)

Connie

Constance Minett

Policy Officer
Pacific Regional Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E constance.minett@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email

Guidance for considering and managing incoming international medical referrals in the context of COVID-19

Version date: 11 September 2020

Purpose	This document provides guidance to DHBs/Private Hospitals/Private Medical Practitioners in considering, processing and managing incoming international medical referrals.
Timeframe	This guidance covers the period effective from 1 July 2020.
Key contact	Brenda Hynes, Manager COVID-19 Response and Coordination, Ministry of Health

Contents

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Reason for change of process

Between April and June 2020, the process for international medical referrals was tightly controlled due to the potential transmission of COVID-19 in New Zealand. This was to provide support to DHB's if New Zealand has a surge of cases and hospital capacity became a concern.

With New Zealand changing their alert level and the health sector returning to a business as usual premise the process for medical referrals is returning to a largely BAU approach.

Considering the request

Determining clinical need

The clinical need/appropriateness will be determined by the sending country's clinical staff, in conjunction with the receiving clinical service and the governing policy for medical referrals. This is likely to occur in situations where the sending country's lack of specific specialized services/resources (such as neurosurgery) and specialised equipment, puts the ongoing appropriate care of the patient at significant risk.

Factors to consider include:

- the condition of the patient, including clinical severity, case complexity, and capacity of both the existing setting as well as the receiving health service (including physical and staffing resources).
- treatment and/or management likely to be required.
- a good prognosis and quality of life for at least 5 years after treatment.
- request for medical referral has been made on appropriate specialist advice
- the COVID-19 precautions that need to be taken (ability to undertake managed isolation or the ability of the health provider to provide isolation and relevant IPC procedures).

Transport

The country and relevant health provider are expected to arrange logistics for the transfer of the patient as per existing processes.

The risk profile for transmission of COVID-19 should be assessed with both sending and receiving countries having an agreed understanding and plan to manage this.

Please note that confirmation of the flight/helicopter information (which departs within a week) is required by Immigration New Zealand for request for exemption to border measures (see below).

Accepting/declining the request

Seeking an exemption from travel restrictions

Please note that exemptions to travel restrictions are the responsibility of INZ. If the decision to proceed is made, the health provider should contact Immigration New Zealand (INZ) directly to request an exemption to travel restrictions if required.

The current travel restrictions can be found on the INZ website:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/border-closures-and-exceptions>.

This paper only covers medical referrals that are classified as urgent and seeking an exemption to travel restrictions:

Option 1 – if medical referral is urgent and required within a week

For the purpose of an Urgent Medical Treatment Visitors Visa, INZ defines an emergency situation as requiring someone to receive immediate medical treatment in New Zealand because:

- their life depends on an immediate transfer to New Zealand, as judged by local health authorities; or
- they have an accident or sudden illness while travelling on a ship or aircraft.

Option 1 – if medical referral is urgent and required within a week

To Immigration New Zealand

Subject Urgent request for exemption (humanitarian grounds) medical referral

[Insert name of Health Provider] would like to seek an exemption to travel restrictions under the humanitarian category for [insert name of person] to seek urgent medical treatment in New Zealand.

We confirm the transport has been/will be [delete not required] confirmed for within the week

Please find attached the following documents as required:

1. Copy of passport
2. Guarantee of payment (GOP) if relevant
3. Evidence that a Managed Isolation exemption has been applied for, and final approval when it comes through (see point "Seeking an exemption from Managed Isolation")

INZ will reply as soon as possible.

If an exemption to travel restrictions is granted, please action immediately with the country.

If an exemption to travel restrictions is not granted, please advise the country immediately. The Ministry of Health, working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, can communicate this to the country directly if preferred.

Seeking an exemption from Managed Isolation

As the treatment is urgent the patient is unable to go into Managed Isolation for 14 days therefore an exemption to Managed Isolation is required. This should be applied for concurrently to applying for a border exemption. It is recommended that you email this application to both immigration and Health so that both parties are aware of the applications. Health will notify Immigration that we have commenced the exemption process so that they can initiate the border exemption process simultaneously

Managing the referral

Transfer

As the person would not have been in Managed Isolation it is important to minimise the risk to health professionals and transport staff, therefore it is important that all staff take the necessary infection prevention and control (IPC) measures and wear PPE as appropriate. Hand hygiene should be strictly adhered to.

For guidance on IPC and PPE, please refer to the Ministry of Health's aeromedical transport protocol¹.

In addition to the routine aeromedical procedures used by DHBs, other factors to consider for transport of a COVID-19 case include²:

Before Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All agencies responsible for the transport of critically ill patients develop a clear plan for the safe transport of COVID-19 patients.• The risk of COVID-19 contamination should be included in consideration of risks and benefits of transporting a COVID-19 patient.
During Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-intubated patients should be transferred wearing a surgical mask over their oxygen delivery device which may include nasal prongs, a Hudson mask or non-rebreather mask up to 15 litres.

¹ MoH Guidance available here: https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid-19-aeromedical-transfer_of_patients-12march2020.pdf

² Adapted from the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society COVID-19 Guidelines Version 1 16 March 2020. Available here: <https://www.anzics.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ANZICS-COVID-19-Guidelines-Version-1.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intubated patients should have closed circuits with a viral filter in situ. • Appropriate PPE for all staff.
After Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure for cleaning the aircraft after transport. • The current policy for self-isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19 should be adhered to by all transport staff except where an exemption has been arranged and approved prior to travel.

Supporting Person/s

If there are accompanying family members or support people, And they are not New Zealand citizens or permanent residents, they will need to apply for a visa as well.

The definition of a support person is "if there is a clinical need for a person to provide consent, physical, emotional or mental support to a patient before, during or after treatment while in New Zealand"

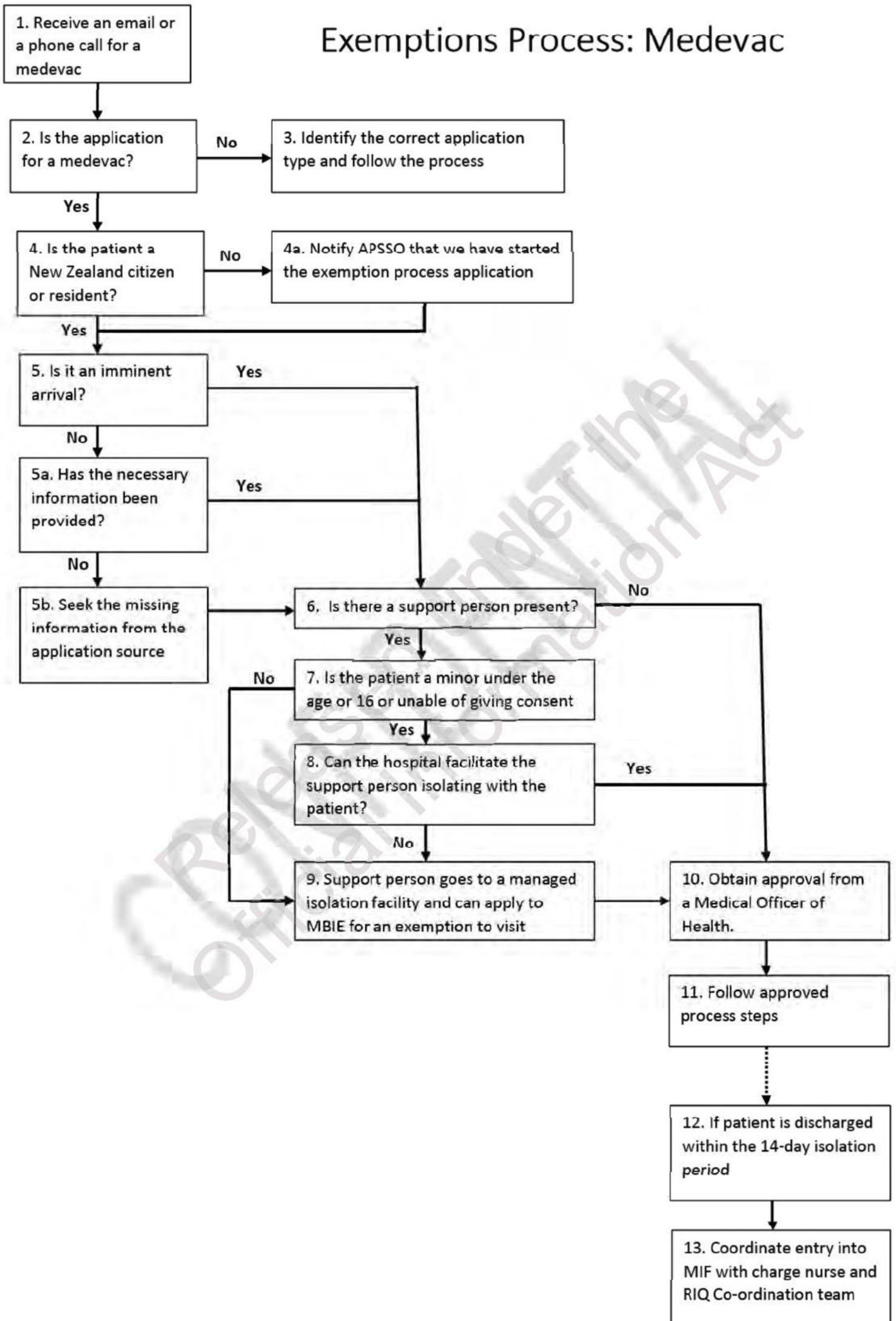
For support people arrangements will need to be made with the hospital and/or managed isolation facility. If there is no clinical need for the support person to isolate in hospital with the patient, they will stay in a managed isolation facility. They can apply to MBIE for an exceptional exemption to visit, isolationexemptions@mbie.govt.nz.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls/covid-19-managed-isolation-and-quarantine#exemptions>

Other

If Immigration have any questions or concerns regarding the information, they are provided with they are to contact the DHB directly

Exemptions Process: Medevac



From: MINETT, Constance (PACREG)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 1:31 pm
To: FEPULEAI, Justin (NYK); CURR, Jonathan (SVA); PATRICK, Hone (SVA); JEBSON, Alex (UNHC)
Cc: GILLARD, Rob (NYK); CRANE, Antony (DEVPP); LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP); CONWAY, Keith (PACMM); RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC); TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API)
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: POTENTIAL MEDEVAC REQUIRED FOR UN PERSONNEL BASED IN FIJI
Attachments: Guidance on urgent incoming medical referrals.docx; Visa support SOP.docx; Medevac SOP.docx; Medevac flowchart.docx

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

Hi all,

Closing the loop on this issue – thank you all for your time at the meeting on Monday. Below is a draft email and documents designed for Posts to pass across to UN counterparts. Please tailor as appropriate for your context.

##

Kia ora colleagues,

I am aware of your ongoing interest in the New Zealand medical evacuation process and was deeply sorry to hear of ill health of a member of your staff stationed in Fiji. Our thoughts are with your staff member and their family at this time.

In order to aid your understanding of medical evacuation to New Zealand, the New Zealand Ministry of Health has provided the attached documents that set out the process for medical evacuation to New Zealand. There are four documents:

1. New Zealand Ministry of Health internal document – Guidance on urgent incoming medical referrals
2. Medevac Standard Operating Procedure
3. Visa support Standard Operating Procedure
4. Medevac flowchart

Medical evacuation requests to New Zealand are approved based on clinical need. The clinical need and appropriateness will be determined by the sending country's clinical staff, in conjunction with the receiving clinical service, usually the receiving New Zealand based District Health Board or private medical care provider. Each medical evacuation is unique and subject to many factors including any pressure on New Zealand's medical services, such that a principle is that no guarantees can be given to third parties regarding possible Medevac agreements. In addition, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has no influence over the medevac process and limited ability to engage in it.

As a last point of call, please contact medevacs@health.govt.nz for health enquiries and isolationexemptions@MBIE.govt.nz for immigration enquiries. We ask that you treat these details with discretion.

If you have any further questions based on this documentation, we are able to set up a meeting with New Zealand based Health colleagues for further discussion.

Constance Minett

Policy Officer

M s9(2)(a) E constance.minett@mfat.govt.nz

From: FEPULEAI, Justin (NYK) <Justin.Fepuleai@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 12:49 AM
To: TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API) <Desmond.Tupangaia@mfat.govt.nz>; CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: MINETT, Constance (PACREG) <Constance.Minett@mfat.govt.nz>; PATRICK, Hone (SVA) <Hone.Patrick@mfat.govt.nz>; GILLARD, Rob (NYK) <Rob.Gillard@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: POTENTIAL MEDEVAC REQUIRED FOR UN PERSONNEL BASED IN FIJI

[RESTRICATED]

JC/Desmond

I think we're all on the same page. If we could set up a working/operational level meeting that might obviate the need for a higher-level arrangement, and the UN could then develop their own bespoke SOPs should a medevac to NZ be required. We'd be happy to help facilitate a working level dial in to a virtual meeting from our end, though having NYK and Suva UN participation would be desirable to help ensure the UN is joined up.

Cheers
Justin

From: TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API) <Desmond.Tupangaia@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:30 PM
To: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>; FEPULEAI, Justin (NYK) <Justin.Fepuleai@mfat.govt.nz>; PATRICK, Hone (SVA) <Hone.Patrick@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: MINETT, Constance (PACREG) <Constance.Minett@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: POTENTIAL MEDEVAC REQUIRED FOR UN PERSONNEL BASED IN FIJI

[RESTRICATED]

Thanks Jonathan

We are on the same page.

Cheers
Desmond

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:03 AM
To: TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API) <Desmond.Tupangaia@mfat.govt.nz>; FEPULEAI, Justin (NYK) <Justin.Fepuleai@mfat.govt.nz>; PATRICK, Hone (SVA) <Hone.Patrick@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: MINETT, Constance (PACREG) <Constance.Minett@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: POTENTIAL MEDEVAC REQUIRED FOR UN PERSONNEL BASED IN FIJI

[RESTRICATED]

Kia ora Desmond,

s6(a)

We at Post would do whatever we can to facilitate visa processing and entry at the border etc., but facilitating medical referrals, treatment and transport arrangements is a matter for the UN. Our thinking was to try to encourage the UN to fully map out their own processes and the intersection of these with the NZ health system, and to have the confidence to explore this without fussing over whether there is an MOU in place. This is why we proposed facilitating a discussion with MOH and other stakeholders, so the UN could develop this confidence, have the ability to ask questions and get authoritative answers, and take steps to finalise their own practical arrangements. We are uncomfortable being a conduit on medical processes unless there is some process documentation (produced in Wellington) that could be formally passed across to UN colleagues.

Happy to discuss if easier.

Ngā mihi

Jonathan

From: TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API) <Desmond.Tupangaia@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 9:23 am

To: FEPULEAI, Justin (NYK) <Justin.Fepuleai@mfat.govt.nz>; CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>; PATRICK, Hone (SVA) <Hone.Patrick@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: MINETT, Constance (PACREG) <Constance.Minett@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: FORMAL MESSAGE: POTENTIAL MEDEVAC REQUIRED FOR UN PERSONNEL BASED IN FIJI

[RESTRICTED]

Kia ora koutou

s9(2)(g)(i)

As mentioned we will discuss further and respond but welcome any further thoughts you might think useful.

Thanks
Desmond

Duplicate email

From: MINETT, Constance (PACREG)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 10:36 am
To: TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API)
Subject: Medical Evacuation to New Zealand - UN
Attachments: Visa support SOP.docx; Medevac SOP.docx; Medevac flowchart.docx; Guidance on urgent incoming medical referrals.docx

Security Classification: IN CONFIDENCE

Over to you Desmond for final sign off!

Connie

Kia ora colleagues,

I am aware of your ongoing interest in the New Zealand medical evacuation process and was deeply sorry to hear of ill health of a member of your staff stationed in Fiji. Our thoughts are with your staff member and their family at this time.

In order to aid your understanding of medical evacuation to New Zealand, the New Zealand Ministry of Health has provided the attached documents that set out the process for medical evacuation to New Zealand. There are four documents:

1. New Zealand Ministry of Health internal document – Guidance on urgent incoming medical referrals
2. Medevac Standard Operating Procedure
3. Visa support Standard Operating Procedure
4. Medevac flowchart

Medical evacuation requests to New Zealand are approved based on clinical need. The clinical need and appropriateness will be determined by the sending country's clinical staff, in conjunction with the receiving clinical service, usually the receiving New Zealand based District Health Board or private medical care provider. Each medical evacuation is unique and subject to many factors including any pressure on New Zealand's medical services, such that a principle is that no guarantees can be given to third parties regarding possible Medevac agreements. In addition, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has no influence over the medevac process and limited ability to engage in it.

As a last point of call, please contact medevacs@health.govt.nz for health enquiries and isolationexemptions@MBIE.govt.nz for immigration enquiries. We ask that you treat these details with discretion.

If you have any further questions based on this documentation, we are able to set up a meeting with New Zealand based Health colleagues for further discussion.

From: MINETT, Constance (PACREG)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 9:13 am
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Cc: TUPANGAIA, Desmond (API)
Subject: RE: Emergency Visa for UN Medevac
Attachments: Visa support SOP.docx; Medevac SOP.docx

Security Classification:
UNCLASSIFIED

Hello!

Share the attached documents with ^{s9(2)}_(a) The documents set out the standard operating procedure for both medevac to New Zealand and the accompanying visa support process.

If helpful you can note that although we are very sympathetic towards the situation, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has no influence over the medevac process and limited ability to engage in it. Immigration New Zealand is the lead agency for issuing visas for entry to New Zealand.

Foreshadowing that a full email is coming today for Jonathan to share with UN counterparts

Constance 😊

Constance Minett

Policy Officer
Pacific Regional Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E constance.minett@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email

Released under the Official Information Act

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:17 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: Fwd: Medevac of UNDP Staff - s9(2)(a) [UNCLASSIFIED]

Security Classification:
UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 9:33 am
To: Tayna Katuke <Tayna.Katuke@mbie.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Fwd: Medevac of UNDP Staff - s9(2)(a) [UNCLASSIFIED] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Tayna

This is now being handled by NZ Air Ambulance Service. Will they be addressing this or do we need to manage separately according to the process you have outlined?

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Tayna Katuke <Tayna.Katuke@mbie.govt.nz>
Date: Monday, 26 Jul 2021, 8:35 AM
To: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Fwd: Medevac of UNDP Staff - s9(2)(a) [UNCLASSIFIED]

Morning Jonathan,

The first thing we need to do for this one is request NZ MOH approval for travel.

If they can follow the below steps to gain approval from NZ MOH for travel, I can assist with expediting the visa process. But we can't complete the visa process until MOH have confirmed that they will support the travel.

Here are the steps to follow in order to get approval to travel to New Zealand for medical treatment while the New Zealand border is still closed:

1. Liaise with her local doctor and request a referral of her case to the Fiji Ministry of Health who is able to issue a letter supporting her need for travel to New Zealand.
2. Send the Fiji Ministry of Health supporting letter to the New Zealand Ministry of Health at medevacs@health.govt.nz for their approval. Once approved, the New Zealand Ministry of Health will email her a visa support letter.
3. Once she has received the visa support letter from the New Zealand Ministry of Health, she can send it to me. I will then request an urgent visa. Do we know if she is booked on a flight yet?

Please note that Immigration New Zealand aim to respond to requests within 5 working days and final outcome of any expression of interest could be either an approval or a decline.

4. If approved, she will be granted a visa to travel. She will then need to apply for an exemption for the 14 day quarantine or make arrangements with the hospitals to go directly into hospital care and quarantine there.

Should you require detailed information on managed isolation and quarantine in New Zealand, please visit the link below:

<https://www.miq.govt.nz/>

Tayna

Tayna Katuke

Visa Operations Manager - Suva
Border and Visa Operations, Immigration New Zealand
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

DDI: s9(2)(a)

Email: tayna.katuke@mbie.govt.nz

Web: www.immigration.govt.nz

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021 8:55 PM

To: Tayna Katuke <Tayna.Katuke@mbie.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Fwd: Medevac of UNDP Staff - s9(2)(a) [UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Tayna - insurance guarantee attached. JC

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

s6(b)(ii)

Released under the
Official Information Act

Released under the
Official Information Act

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:15 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: Urgent - Fiji case for MEDEVAC for UN system

Security Classification:
IN CONFIDENCE

[IN CONFIDENCE]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021 6:28 pm
To: FEPULEAI, Justin (NYK) <Justin.Fepuleai@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: LAWSON, Greta (NYK) <Greta.Lawson@mfat.govt.nz>; HAWKE, Craig (NYK) <Craig.Hawke@mfat.govt.nz>; GILLARD, Rob (NYK) <Rob.Gillard@mfat.govt.nz>; DU TOIT, Jenny (SVA) <Jenny.DuToit@mfat.govt.nz>; DAWSON, Virginia (SVA) <Virginia.Dawson@mfat.govt.nz>; CONWAY, Christine (SVA) <Christine.Conway@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Urgent - Fiji case for MEDEVAC for UN system

Bula Justin

Just letting you know that we are providing support and have:

- Provided air ambulance service contacts
- Alerted CMDHB/Middlemore Hospital
- Alerted INZ

s9(2)(a) tells me that Geneva is on the phone to air ambulance services at the moment exploring options.

Vinaka

Jonathan

Jonathan Curr

High Commissioner
New Zealand High Commission Fiji | Te Aka Aorere

T s9(2)(a) E jonathan.curr@mfat.govt.nz

s6(b)(ii)

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**United Nations**

COVID-19 Response

LETTER OF GUARANTEE

I, the undersigned, being duly authorized, hereby confirm that

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (Entity Name)

undertakes to pay the costs and expenses listed below that may be incurred when treating the below patient in the below receiving hospital arising from medical evacuations coordinated through the United Nations Medevac Cell for COVID-19:

PATIENT INFORMATION:

Patient Name: s9(2)(a)


Patient Date of Birth: s9(2)(a)

Employer: UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji

Receiving hospital: Auckland, New Zealand

ENTITY INFORMATION:

24-Jul-2021

Signature of Entity Official and Date: 

Name/Title: Levan Bouadze, UNDP Resident Representative

Email: levan.bouadze@undp.org

Phone number: s9(2)(a)

The above-mentioned Entity agrees to be responsible for the payment of (i) medically necessary, reasonable and customary medical costs and expenses for services related to treatment of COVID-19, and (ii) reasonable additional incidental expenses, such as personal and hygiene items (toothbrush, shower gel) telephone/TV, drinks, newspapers, incurred during such services.

Receipt of invoices is centrally managed by a third-party provider, Cigna International Health Services BVBA. Invoices together with a copy of this Letter of Guarantee should be addressed no later than within six months of the patient's discharge from the receiving hospital to: UN System-Wide Medevac Task Force (policy 522) at UNCovidMedevac@cigna.com.

Payment will be effected by bank transfer. Please include bank details (bank name, account number, sort code or ABA/ACH, SWIFT, IBAN, etc.) and an email address for submission of the payment advice.

Payment may be withheld in respect of any invoice in the event that, the costs and expenses outlined in the invoice do not reflect actual services provided or incidental expenses incurred, the listed costs and fees do not correlate with the cost of medical services or incidental items that are customarily charged by this receiving hospital, or if the receiving hospital has not provided sufficient documentation in support of the invoice.

Nothing in this document shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs, which are hereby expressly reserved.

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:17 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: Fwd: Medevac of UNDP Staff - s9(2)(a)
Attachments: Letter of Guarantee UN System Entities 010321.pdf

Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021 8:55 pm
To: Tayna Katuke <Tayna.Katuke@mbie.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Fwd: Medevac of UNDP Staff - s9(2)(a)

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Tayna - insurance guarantee attached. JC

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

s6(b)(ii)

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From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:12 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: Urgent - Fiji case for MEDEVAC for UN system

Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021 6:07 pm
s6(b)(ii)

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From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:12 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: Air ambulance Australasia

Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021 5:29 pm
To: s9(2)(b)(ii)
Subject: FW: Air ambulance Australasia

From: DU TOIT, Jenny (SVA) <Jenny.DuToit@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2021 5:26 pm
To: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: Air ambulance Australasia

[UNCLASSIFIED]

s9(2)(a) from Air Ambulance Australasia

They can call him on s9(2)(a)

Regards

Jenny Du Toit

First Secretary - Administration & Consul
Post Security Officer
New Zealand High Commission Suva | Te Aka Aorere

T s9(2)(a) E Jenny.dutoit@mfat.govt.nz

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From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:12 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Case 373: hospital confirmation in Auckland?

Security Classification:
UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 12:23 pm
To: s9(2)(a) un.org>
Subject: RE: [EXT] Case 373: hospital confirmation in Auckland?

I doubt that would be a problem. The local provider should be able to advise whether they have done this before and if they encountered any problems. I'm checking with Wellington to be sure, but I'm not aware of any impediments.

Wellington tells me the hospital/Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) is doing everything they can to facilitate the medevac.

JC

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 11:48 am
To: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: [EXT] Case 373: hospital confirmation in Auckland?

Dear Jonathon,

Below is the relevant portion of the message I have just received from WFP's aviation hub in Brindisi that deals with air ambulance. Will NZ allow a Fiji provider to fly her in?

Cheers
s9
(2)

I confirm to you that the urgent of this patient transfer escalated via email and calls to ISOS.

ISOS since morning are looking on providers and found NZ provider available, the name is: "New Zealand Air Ambulance Service", but they only confirm that aircraft is not available before 27th July, and we haven't received any itinerary yet.

I suggested ISOS to look on alternative's provider's (based in Fiji) and until now, I just received an email from ISOS that have identified a possible provider in Fiji that could flight earlier but for now, have not sent an itinerary either.

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:21 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: Medevac from Fiji

Security Classification:
UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 6:20 pm
To: 'Brenda Hynes' <Brenda.Hynes@health.govt.nz>; LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>; CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Medevac from Fiji

Kia ora Brenda – you may already know this, but the UN has been informed by Counties Manukau that the relevant Medical Officer of Health has declined the medevac. Ngā mihi, Jonathan

Jonathan Curr

High Commissioner

New Zealand High Commission Fiji | Te Aka Aorere

T s9(2)(a)

E jonathan.curr@mfat.govt.nz

Tower 10, Reserve Bank Building, Pratt Street, Suva, Republic of Fiji

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



From: Brenda Hynes <Brenda.Hynes@health.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 1:08 pm
To: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>; CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Medevac from Fiji

That's alright, just pulling together all the information for the DG now

Brenda

Brenda Hynes
Manager
Response and Co-ordination
Covid-19 Response
Covid-19 Health Response
Ministry of Health
DDI: s9(2)(a)

<mailto:Brenda.Hynes@health.govt.nz>

*Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; **practice** good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), **sign** into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell **stay home** and **get tested**.*



From: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 1:04 pm
To: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>; Brenda Hynes <Brenda.Hynes@health.govt.nz>
Cc: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Medevac from Fiji

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Sorry for the double up Brenda, Tony and I must have been sending our emails at the same time!
Best wishes
Helen

From: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:56 PM
To: Brenda Hynes <Brenda.Hynes@health.govt.nz>
Cc: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>; LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Medevac from Fiji

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Brenda

Helen has asked me to respond.

As I think Helen indicated, MFAT is not part of this process. We were asked at Suva Post to assist and limited ourselves to facilitating the communications required and clarifying the process for the UN local representatives (who presumably took this back to Geneva.)

We are not aware why NZ was chosen over another suitable nearby country, but we understand that decision was taken in Geneva. Clarification from Geneva would likely be an overnight affair.

Many thanks for your help on this.

Nga mihi

Antony Crane (he/him)

Programme Manager - Health

T s9(2)(a)

E antony.crane@mfat.govt.nz

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand
www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



From: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:17 PM
To: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Medevac from Fiji

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Tony, as discussed

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Brenda Hynes <Brenda.Hynes@health.govt.nz>
Date: Tuesday, 27 Jul2021, 12:10 PM
To: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: Medevac from Fiji

Helen

As per our discussion.

The DG is asking why New Zealand and not Australia, can you please provide some information regarding how MFAT became involved in the process

Many thanks in advance

Brenda

Brenda Hynes
Manager
Response and Co-ordination
Covid-19 Response
Covid-19 Health Response

<mailto:Brenda.Hynes@health.govt.nz>

Do your bit to keep New Zealand COVID free; practice good hygiene (includes washing your hands often and coughing into your elbow), sign into places using the NZ COVID Tracer app, if you're unwell stay home and get tested.



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26 July 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Patient: s9(2)(a)

This is to confirm the above patient has been accepted for transfer from Fiji for care due to her COVID-19 illness by the CMO –Dr Peter Watson and the Respiratory Team here at Middlemore Hospital. s9(2) is going to be admitted to Intensive Care on arrival.

Counties Manukau DHB is not responsible for the cost of this transfer or the cost of her care.

Regards



Stacey Wilson

**COVID-19 Response Manager | Middlemore Central
Ratonga Kakawa Tārū, Ratonga Pūtake
Acute Critical and Central Services (ACaCS)**

T: s9(2)(a)

Stacey.wilson@middlemore.co.nz

Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Kind Manaakitanga	Excellent Rangitiratanga	Valuing everyone Whakawhanaungatanga	Together Kotahitanga
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From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:19 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: s9(2)(a)

Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 9:55 pm
To: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: s9(2)(a) pdf [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Confirmation of acceptance by CMDHB

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Jonathan Curr <jcurrnz@icloud.com>
Date: Monday, 26 Jul 2021, 9:51 PM
To: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: s9(2)(a) pdf

Sent from my iPhone

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 1:20 pm
To: PATRICK, Hone (SVA)
Subject: FW: UN patient Fiji

Security Classification:
UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:49 pm
To: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: UN patient Fiji [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

The RC is having to check with Geneva. Seems the decision was made there.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Date: Tuesday, 27 Jul 2021, 12:37 PM
To: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: UN patient Fiji [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Jonathan. Yes please call the UNRC as this query is from the DG of Health so we should be sure. Or we just refer MoH to the applicant which would be normal process.

Thanks

Tony

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Date: Tuesday, 27 Jul 2021, 12:35 PM
To: Michelle Nicholson-Burr (CMDHB) <Michelle.Nicholson-Burr@middlemore.co.nz>, CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: UN patient Fiji [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Tony - let me know if you need us to ask the UN. ^{s6(a)}

May have been a decision taken

in Geneva/Brindisi.

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(www.blackberry.com)

From: Michelle Nicholson-Burr (CMDHB) <Michelle.Nicholson-Burr@middlemore.co.nz>
Date: Tuesday, 27 Jul 2021, 12:23 PM
To: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) <Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP) <Helen.Leslie@mfat.govt.nz>, CURR, Jonathan (SVA) <Jonathan.Curr@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: UN patient Fiji

Hi Tony

This is a question for Fiji – whoever did the original referral probably had a choice. Do we know if Australia was ever asked?

Kind regards,

Michelle

Michelle Nicholson-Burr
Senior Programme Manager | Child Health Technical Advisor
Pacific Health Development
Directorate of Funding and Health Equity

I M: s9(2)(a)
michelle.nicholson-burr@middlemore.co.nz
Middlemore Hospital | 100 Hospital Road, Otahuhu | Private Bag 93311 Otahuhu, Auckland 1640.
countiesmanukau.health.nz | COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

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From: CRANE, Antony (DEVPP) [<mailto:Tony.Crane@mfat.govt.nz>]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 July 2021 12:21 p.m.
To: Michelle Nicholson-Burr (CMDHB)
Cc: LESLIE, Helen (DEVPP); CURR, Jonathan (SVA)
Subject: UN patient Fiji

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Michelle

MoH are wondering why this patient is coming to NZ and not, for instance, Australia. Dr Bloomfield has to sign this off and he has asked the question.

Can you help answer this? Sign-off this afternoon depends on the answer.

Thanks,

Tony

Antony Crane (he/him)

Programme Manager - Health

T s9(2)(a)

E antony.crane@mfat.govt.nz

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand

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