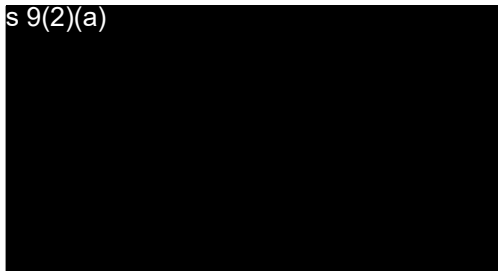


30 July 2020

s 9(2)(a)



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

“One aspect which I cannot recall ever reaching the news is the cost of quarantine to the taxpayer.

My estimation would be that the Government pays around \$2,800 for each arrival’s quarantine and food and at 250 arrivals per day this would amount to \$700,000 or 20 million a month.

May I ask under the OIA if this is about right?”

On 20 July 2020, your request was transferred from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) under section 14 of the Act, as the information requested is more closely aligned with the functions of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

Firstly, I apologise that your request has been passed between agencies following the transfer of responsibility for managed isolation facilities between the Ministry and MBIE. The Ministry’s focus has been on the swift establishment and the operation of the facilities as part of the country’s response to COVID-19.

The Ministry is unable to provide an average cost per person. Managed isolation facilities are operating to ensure that there is sufficient capacity at any point in time. The facilities do not operate on an ‘as required’ or ‘per person’ basis.

You will be interested to know the total amount spent on managed isolation and quarantine facilities is \$81.973 million (GST inclusive) up to 30 June 2020. This covers food and accommodation for guests, security, transfers, health and wellbeing wraparound services and direct costs that are not covered in All-of-Government staff baselines, which are met by the respective organisations who provide those staff.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely



Natalie Richardson
Director
COVID-19 Health System Response