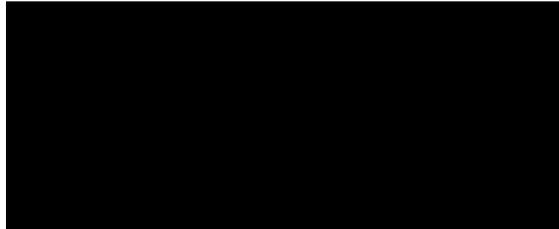


10 February 2022



Re Request for Official Information – Reasons for Border Exemption

I refer to your official information request received by Auckland DHB on 24 January 2022 for the following information:

What reason/reasons did Sonny Fatupatio cite for needing a border exemption?

Response

I am responding on behalf of the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC), the COVID-19 response and vaccination team set up by the Northland, Waitematā, Auckland, and Counties Manukau District Health Boards (DHBs).

The NRHCC is the responsible agency of the Metro-Auckland District Health Boards who oversee the COVID-19 response - including support for vulnerable people and their households.

From time to time public health officials seek the urgent assistance of key members of the community who have access to these vulnerable households in order to ensure their understanding of, and compliance with, requirements to isolate as well as ensuring they have access to appropriate medical care and advice.

In September, 2021 Mr Sonny Fatupatio was one such community member who provided services to support the NRHCC in managing the outbreak and to execute its public health obligations.

Mr Fatupatio did not cite any reason for a border exemption as his services were engaged by the NRHCC and he was subsequently provided an Essential Worker Letter by the NRHCC.

The purpose of the Essential Worker Letter was to enable travel into, out of, or through alert level areas, during the period of the COVID-19 outbreak where alert level restrictions were in place. The letter is provided to those carrying out one of the following services which are considered essential to providing healthcare services. These services include but are not limited to:

- Healthcare workers for District Health Boards and all other entities associated with health
- Contractors for utilities, maintenance and construction

- Workers involved in healthcare supply, delivery, distribution and sale of food, beverage and other key consumer goods considered essential, including supply chains
- Health care security services
- Health care transport and logistics
- Incident management of COVID-19, including contracted services to enable the response

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive
Auckland District Health Board