

Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Finance

Minister for Infrastructure

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister for Racing



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Kevin O'Leary
kevin@businessnh.org.nz

Dear Kevin

Thank you for your letter and email of 2 March 2022 regarding Business North Harbour, the support options and impacts of the Red traffic light setting.

As our response to the pandemic continues, we are regularly monitoring and adapting the support options available to individuals and businesses. I am constantly receiving updated information and advice from officials, the public, and industry leaders on the best way to manage business support, especially in light of the current Omicron outbreak.

Some of the changes we have made to our response include introducing a new comparator period for the COVID Support Payment to provide additional certainty to businesses and changes to our border settings.

We've also recently announced changes to the COVID-19 Protection Framework, including changes to vaccine pass requirements and mandates, mask and QR code requirements, and capacity limits for indoor and outdoor events. These changes will support businesses in planning and operating under our 'new normal' as the peak of the Omicron wave passes.

As you will also be aware we now have dates for the return of tourists, initially from Australia in April and then from visa waiver countries at the beginning of May.

I want to assure you that we are taking New Zealanders' concerns seriously and are continuing to work hard to make sure we are taking the best approach to help individuals, families and businesses manage through this pandemic.

I have noted the points you raise and have passed your comments on to officials for their information.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance