



AIDE MEMOIRE

7 August 2020

RPT 20/144B

COVID 19 STRENGTHENED MARITIME BORDER RESTRICTIONS

Cabinet, Monday, 10 August 2020.

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New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel will be deployed to the maritime border

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to support the operation of Customs and others implementing the Maritime Border Order.

[The final section on page two of this Aide memoire outlines further background to this question]

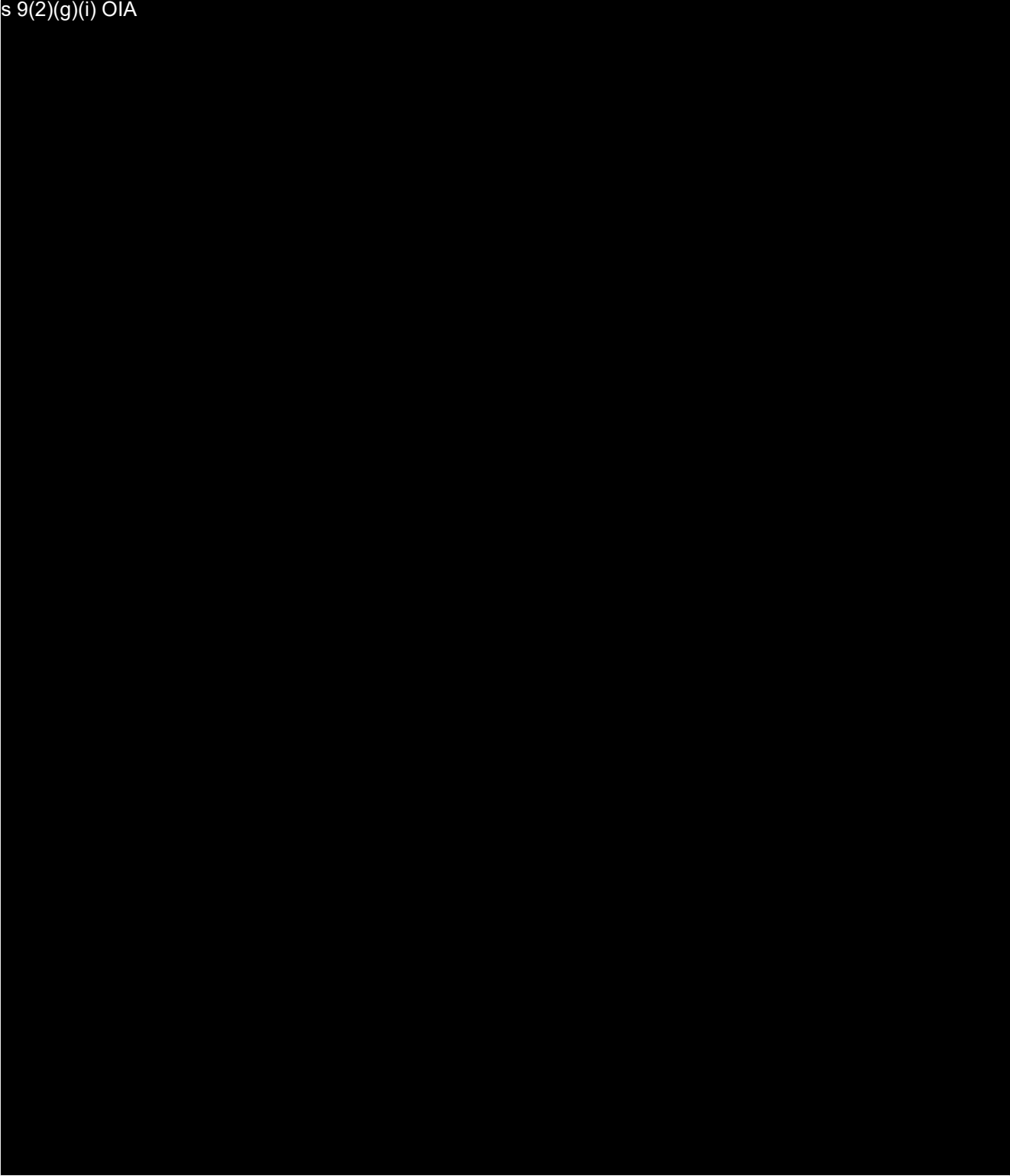
We propose some amendments to the Maritime Border Order

- The Maritime Border Order came into force on 30 June 2020.
- The Order prohibits all foreign vessels from coming to New Zealand, with exemptions for
 - vessels carrying New Zealanders and permanent residents (who are entitled to enter New Zealand)
 - commercial vessels (cargo and fishing, for example).
- Cabinet agreed that officials should review the order after one month of operation.
- Based on this review, we recommend strengthening and streamlining the Order in the following ways:
 - Earlier notification of intended arrival (one week vs 48 hours) to enable the risk to be better assessed and the health response planned and delivered.
 - Transfers between ports/MIQ/airports to be done by MIQ staff.
 - Additional protections for port workers working around the vessels.
 - More options for entry for shore leave or to stay by allowing people on vessels to enter New Zealand when health assessments and testing are completed.
 - Health will assess the health of and test:
 - port workers
 - those arriving on vessels, where someone wishes to enter New Zealand.
- In addition, Customs will be able to use its existing powers to direct a vessel to go to a different port. This will be used in cases, most likely for yachts, where the required isolation cannot be safely or securely provided at the nominated port of arrival.

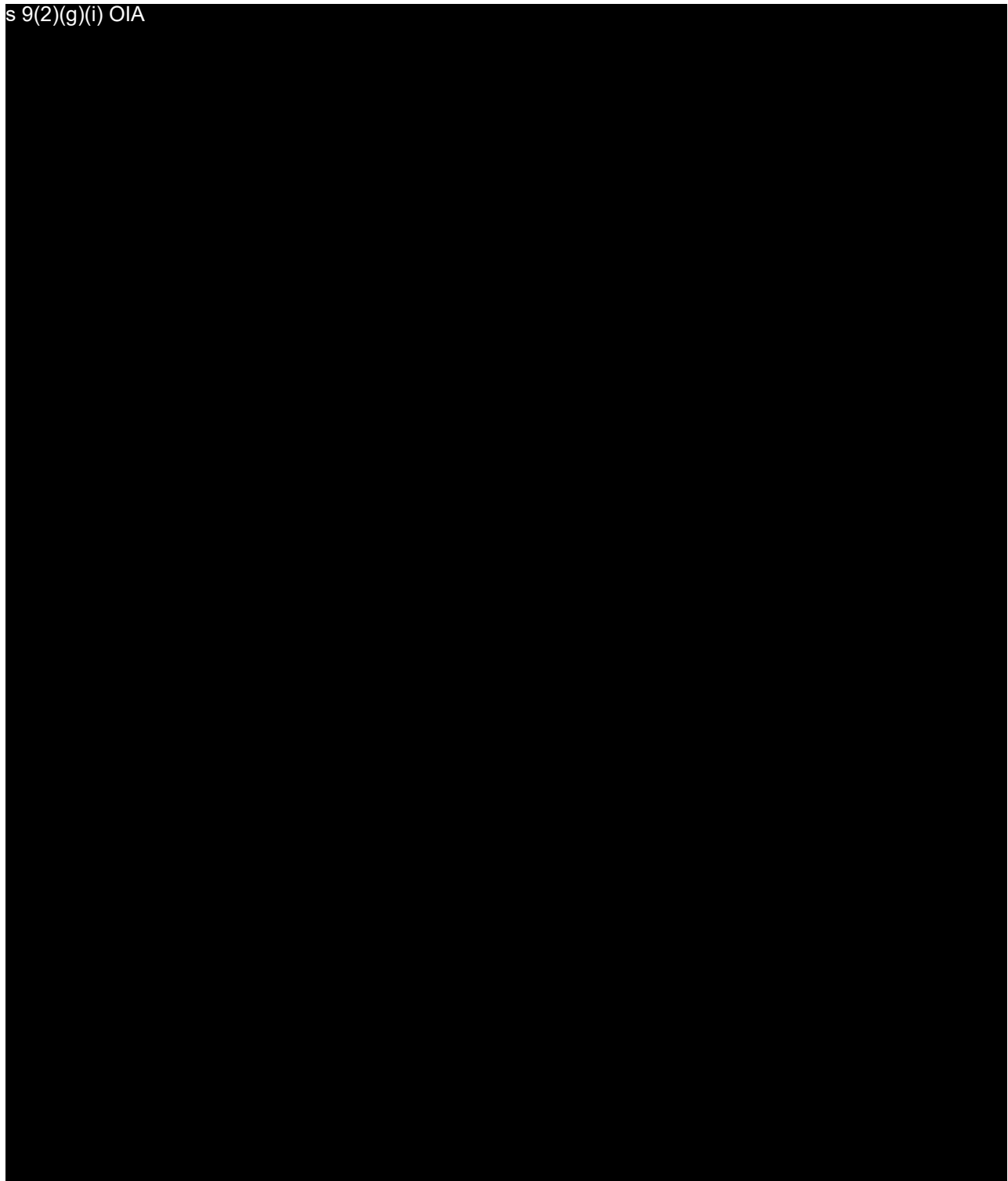
Customs is directly meeting the key aspects of the Order...

- Customs is meeting key aspects of the Order through ensuring we identify and address the key risks (by meeting all arriving vessels, for example).
- It has expanded its operational presence across all ports through redeployment of existing Customs officers and acquiring assistance from our border sector partners.

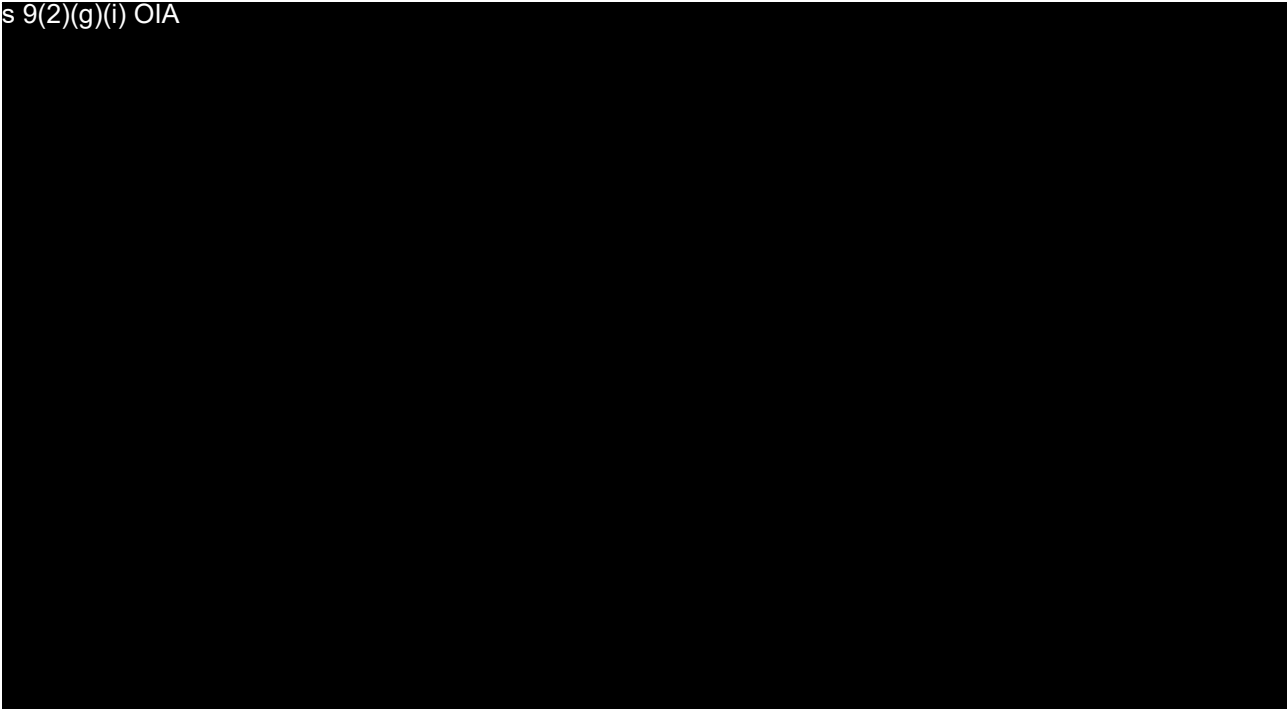
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Outside of Scope

