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Government of South Australia

Department of the Premier
and Cabinet

DPC21/0734
B1076986

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Mr Chris Picton
Member for Kaurna
Shop 9, 760 Grand Boulevard
SEAFORD MEADOWS SA 5169

Sent by email: shadowhealth@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Picton

Freedom of information (FOI) application

I refer to your request received by the Office of the Premier seeking access under section 13 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) to:

A copy of any and all correspondence signed by the Premier and addressed to the Prime Minister, and copies of any email/s via which the letter was sent. Date range - 22/04/2021 to 28/04/2021

DPC is responsible for processing FOI applications on behalf of the Office of the Premier.

Under the Act, an agency has 30 days to respond to an FOI request. As DPC did not respond to your request within the time frame required, the department is deemed to have refused you access to all documents relevant to your application. However, I have determined to process the request as if the statutory time frame had been met.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my determination.

One document was identified as answering the terms of your application and I have determined to release this document in full. A copy of it is attached.

FOI Disclosure Log

In compliance with [Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045 - Disclosure Logs for Non-Personal Information Released through Freedom of Information \(PC045\)](#), DPC is [required to publish a log](#) of all non-personal information released under the Act.

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In accordance with this Circular, any non-personal information determined for release as part of this application will be published on the DPC website.

Right to internal review

If you are aggrieved with this determination, you have a right to apply for internal review under subsection 29(1) of the Act. Pursuant to subsection 29(2), your application must:

- be in writing
- be addressed to the principal officer, and
- be lodged at an office of DPC, or emailed to DPCFOIUnit@sa.gov.au within 30 days after the day on which you receive this letter or within such further time as the principal officer may allow.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Denise Cranwell, Freedom of Information Officer, on telephone (08) 8429 7312 or via email at DPCFOIUnit@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Eamonn Maloney
Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
Office of the Chief Executive
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

10 / 08 / 2021



The Hon Steven Marshall MP
Premier of South Australia

B1044082

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Email: DLO@pm.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister

I write with reference to my letter dated 5 February 2021 and recent discussions held at National Cabinet on 9 April 2021 regarding the international passenger arrival cap for South Australia.

Since my last letter, South Australia has continued to support the repatriation of up to 530 international arrivals per week on scheduled commercial flights through the operation of the State's medi-hotel system. This figure does not include the additional 10 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade passengers South Australia has agreed to accept from 1 June 2021 to support the return of Australian Government officials and their dependents to Australia.

As part of the continued support with the repatriation and safe quarantine of overseas Australians, I am pleased to advise that South Australia continues to operate a medi-hotel dedicated to providing high level care and support to COVID-19 positive arrivals while maintaining a high level of protection for staff and the community.

However, in order to maintain the integrity of the medi-hotel system, expert health and infection control advice has identified that the incoming flight schedule should be reassessed when the dedicated facility utilisation reached 15 active cases at any one time. Moving above this case load puts medi-hotel and health resources under significant pressure risking the integrity of the system.

As at 23 April 2021, South Australia has identified 30 active COVID-19 cases, with 14 of these cases received from two flights in the past week. The dedicated facility operates on the basis of accommodating up to 18 traveller cohort groups. SA Health is working towards creating additional capacity at the dedicated facility, however, this will require a three day reset of the site operations to enable the expansion. The facility currently only has the capacity for another two traveller groups.

In response to the increase in positive cases and the safe capacity of the medi-hotel system being reached, South Australia requests a temporary diversion on international arrivals and rescheduling of these arrivals to another jurisdiction, effective immediately (arrival date 24th April 2021). This will necessitate the diversion of two flights, a Malaysian Airlines flight on 24 April and a Singapore Airline flight on 26 April. This temporary diversion and subsequent reset will allow South Australia to resume accepting international arrivals from 27 April 2021, considering the welcomed news of the recent decision of National Cabinet to require additional testing from high risk countries.

South Australia will continue to monitor the positive rate of new Australian arrivals and the number of positive cases in the context of its capacity to support the national response while ensuring that the safety and quality of the medi-hotel scheme is maintained.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Marshall', written in a cursive style.

Hon Steven Marshall MP
PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
23 / 04 / 2021

CC: *The Hon Stephen Wade MLC, Minister for Health and Wellbeing*