

POST-CABINET PRESS CONFERENCE: MONDAY, 1 APRIL

PM: Good afternoon, everyone. I want to begin, as I have done most days now, and start by thanking New Zealanders for the ongoing work to make sure that they stay within their bubbles and stay at home during the period that we are at level 4, and the work that they are doing to break the chain of transmission. As you will have heard this morning, there are 61 new cases today. While on the face of it that may seem a heartening number relative to some of the other figures that we've had now, I want to emphasise again that it is still too early to assess if our measures are successfully slowing transmission. Because COVID-19 takes a while to incubate, we could still see increases in our numbers in the days to come, off the back of transmission in the community prior to the lockdown, that may yet be rearing its head in visible symptoms.

If the virus is in the community in this way—present, but not yet seen—then the worst thing we could do is be relaxed or too complacent and allow a silent spread. I think we only need to look at some of the clusters of cases that we have in our community to know just how quickly COVID-19 can spread if we weren't, for instance, currently at level 4: the schooling community of Marist in Auckland, the community of Matamata. If we weren't at level 4, we could see outbreaks that were far, far worse down the track.

We also don't have a full picture of the extent of community transmission. That is why we have been so focused on increasing testing capacity which, over a period of time, we've seen a 91 percent increase in that testing capacity and are working to continue to build that. It is why, ultimately—testing being so important to, obviously, our officials, and the Ministry of Health as well—you'll have seen that technical advisory group yesterday changing the definition for testing to encourage more tests to be undertaken. We want to know as soon and as accurately as possible how widely spread COVID is in the community so we can be confident we have it back under control and that we can keep successfully stamping out cases as they arrive.

So I'll repeat, as I always do: stay at home. Only go out if you need to. When you do, stay local. Keep 2 metres apart from others. Stick only to your bubble, and act like you have the virus. I continue to be very aware that this is a challenge unlike any other we have faced, but rest assured, if we continue as we are, continuing applying the rules, then that gives us the best hope of being able to move into different alert levels.

Work carried on in the Beehive today, with the Cabinet Business Committee meeting today—virtually, of course. Earlier today, you may have seen from Ministers Jones, Twyford, and Parker announcements on infrastructure. Industry leaders have been asked to find infrastructure projects that are ready to start as soon as the construction industry gears up again. The aim of this is to help reduce the economic impact of COVID by safeguarding jobs and businesses as much as possible. Projects from the private and public sector—including local government—that are shovel-ready, or likely to be within six months, will be put before Ministers. And I note that this is additional to the Government's \$12 billion New Zealand Upgrade Programme and existing Provincial Growth Fund infrastructure investments.

We also announced that advance payments will be made to transport construction industry contractors to retain the workforce and ensure it is ready to quickly gear up to build these projects, which will be vital to New Zealand's COVID-19 economic recovery. To complement all of this, work is also under way looking at measures to speed up consents for the development and infrastructure projects during the recovery from COVID-19 to provide jobs and stimulate our economy. Minister Robertson is here if there are any further questions on any of those announcements today.

I also have some information on the first day of the price watch service we announced yesterday. As at 9 a.m., around 990 emails—that does include some duplicates and unrelated messages, but that is the number that had been received as at 9 a.m. The most common complaint was, as previously advertised, the high price of cauliflower, with some emails quoting \$13 each, but also prices of hand sanitiser, bread, meat, face masks, and garlic also featured in complaints. I do want to say to people that we are taking these complaints seriously. In some cases, it will simply be an issue of change in supply, particularly when it comes to produce, but we are investigating complaints that are made, because this is a time when we want to know that New Zealanders are being treated fairly, and that's what price watch is all about. The process for dealing with complaints is being worked through and, as I've said, will need to be fact-checked, and we will involve traders so that they, obviously, have a chance to respond to some of what's been raised. Again, though, I urge everyone: shop as normal and be kind to the supermarket workers who are there so that you can remain stocked up at home.

Following up on some of the questions from yesterday on the Government's recently announced \$56 million support package for Māori communities and \$27 million package for NGOs and community groups, today I want to give you just a few updates. The funding allocated to Whānau Ora commissioning agencies has been fully paid out, which has helped the agencies to coordinate 100,000 care packages, with over 11,000 delivered to date, aiming for 30,000 by the end of the week. And that's to help—members of the community have access to products to ensure that they are able to meet some of the expectations during COVID-19 to keep themselves safe, particularly some of the guidelines being issued by the Ministry of Health.

The investment has also helped to facilitate priority access to COVID-19 testing for vulnerable whānau such as kaumātua, and help to address immediate needs such as providing food and clothing access to isolation accommodation and technology for educational needs. Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry of Health are continuing to work with commissioning agencies to make sure that they are involved in the wider COVID-19 response.

Of the package to support NGOs and community groups, nearly half has been allocated—that's roughly \$12 million—to support essential family and sexual violence services. That includes one-off grants to the likes of Women's Refuge and other services to provide residential support to ensure women and children can move to safe accommodation or stay safe in their homes with the perpetrator removed, and an immediate \$1 million boost to beef up the capacity for crisis and helpline services. Minister for Social Development, Carmel Sepuloni, will have more to say on that in the very near future.

Finally, today, I want to thank the people who everyone at home is becoming very familiar with as you watch our daily press conferences, and that is our sign language interpreters. I know civil defence director, Sarah Stuart-Black, issued a thankyou earlier today, and I want to reiterate that, and specifically to Alan, Jen, and Melissa, who you see quite frequently, although Alan is not here at the moment. Wenda, Rosie, and Angela as well—some of the faces that you see frequently. About 4,000 to 5,000 New Zealanders are Deaf and rely on New Zealand Sign Language as their first language. It is one of New Zealand's three official languages. And remember their singular focus is to make sure as many New Zealanders as possible know what is going on not just here in Parliament but in New Zealand and around the country, and I know there is also much interpretation work going on alongside the huge increase in video conferencing as well. It is an exceptional feat and at a vital time when we need information to reach as many New Zealanders as possible. I know a few of our sign language interpreters have rightly gone viral, and I hope what will also go viral is our gratitude for the incredible role and important work that they do. So thank you.

I'm happy to take questions.

Media: Why has the number of daily tests fallen off? Why did it fall off for a few days after last Wednesday?

PM: Yeah, so some of that will be—and I've asked the same question. So today, even though we've been providing the rolling average so that that can give us a sense of our tracking over time—the seven-day rolling average for today is 1,843, but for today it's 2,093 tests. I've asked the same question. I think, as you would expect, we do see a bit of a change over the weekend, so I think, in people's minds, even though our fight against COVID is 24/7, some people's access to their GPs, and therefore testing, even though we have those clinics available, is, I think, impacting those numbers over the weekend. We've talked to the director-general around what we can do to get consistency, because that's two days out of seven where we can't really afford to have those testing numbers fall away, and that's something that the Ministry of Health I know is looking at.

Media: [*Inaudible*] needed to be testing more sooner, didn't we, because all roads lead back to testing in terms of [*Inaudible*]?

PM: And you'll see that we have had the capacity. I can't remember one day, off the top of my head, where the tests have met the capacity that we've had. So we've got the ability to do more tests than we're currently doing, and so, ultimately, that's why you'll hear me continue to encourage that testing. The change that clinicians made yesterday to broaden out the number of people captured will be a critical part of that.

Media: So many GPs are saying we just don't have the swabs to do the tests, though—they're not being provided them. So why is that the case, if there's the capacity—

PM: That shouldn't be the case, and that's something that of course I will continue to ensure that the Ministry of Health is dealing with that issue. That is just simply a distribution, not a capacity, issue. We have the capacity, we have the swabs; we're constantly needing to make sure that they are across the country. What I will remind you is that we have set up, in every community now, specific testing stations, and that is to make sure that no matter where you are, you should be able to access a test.

Media: Why are some of the laboratories deciding to reject certain swabs they're receiving because they don't fit the criteria if they still have the capacity to run them?

PM: I don't think it will be a case of swabs being rejected; I think what I have seen are reports of where GPs have referred people to those testing clinics. That's something that I have raised with the Director-General of Health—can we get a handle of that inconsistent messaging—because that's frustrating for someone who goes to get a test, and also it doesn't sit in line with our view that we need to increase testing. My hope, actually, now is with criteria that we have that is as broad as it is, that some of that should fall away.

Media: How easy is it for New Zealanders to get a test?

PM: We should make it as easy as possible. That's why, for instance, you've got GPs who are saying, "Look, call ahead, and we can make sure we can take a test from you safely." GPs have been really flexible. In some cases, they are doing it in their car parks; others have set up specific facilities right adjacent to their clinics to make it as easy as going to your doctor. But in every community, we also, across DHBs, have specific testing clinics.

Media: Could you provide us with a little bit of guidance on how we get from level 4 back down to what has been described as "back to normal". Do we go straight from level 4 to level 1 or level zero, or do we have to go through 3, 2, then 1, or—how does that work?

PM: Yeah, obviously we're talking about a short period of time in which we're going to have to build some confidence that we've got the virus back under control and that we have the ability, from there, to aggressively stamp out cases where we see them. We have to be prepared that we're going to have COVID in the global community for a number of months, so that means gearing up our system that whenever we see cases, we can stamp them out quickly.

Media: Getting back to level 1, would that require X amount of days with no new cases?

PM: And that's some of the specific detail that we're working with our scientists and public health officials to work through—what are the criteria for getting right back down to that level. But, of course, our aspiration—our goal right now—is to be confident enough that we have got this virus back under control, that some of our public health measures of aggressive contact tracing and aggressive testing means that we can move back down to a lower alert level than we are now.

Media: The Director of Public Health today said that there was a lot of—

PM: The director of public—oh, the Director of Public Health, not the director-general. Correct.

Media: —said that there was a lot of uncertainty around community transmission. Do you accept now that the testing criteria should have been loosened weeks ago?

PM: You will have heard me constantly and consistently say that clinicians needed to use their discretion, and that always existed. Regardless of international travel, regardless of contact with anyone else who had COVID, they've always had the discretion to test if they believed they needed to. Now we have another change from the doctors, the clinicians, again, that has broadened it out even further for absolute clarity.

Media: Regardless of that, why was that not done weeks ago?

PM: Again—again—the ability for someone to use their discretion has always existed, and I'd point out that, you know, actually—

Media: I'm not talking about discretion; I'm talking about the case definition—

PM: Ah, well, the case—ultimately, a case definition that's got discretion says that even if you don't meet that criteria, you can test, but you will have heard me consistently point to that discretion always existing. Derek, it's never been for me as a politician to determine who should be tested, but it's always been my message that we have built the capacity so that we have the ability for clinicians to test who they believe they need to test.

Media: Some within the Māori and Pasifika communities are concerned that people within their communities aren't being tested enough. What's being done about that?

PM: Well, ultimately, I see no reason why they shouldn't be, and, again, at the moment, the number from within our Māori and Pasifika communities who have been affected by COVID-19 is relatively low, but we want to keep it that way, and so that does say, of course, that we need to make sure that testing, as with our wider community, is available. The numbers at the moment—19 Pacific peoples, 46 Māori currently who have tested positive. But, of course, we need to make sure that as with all our community, we've got adequate testing, and, as you've heard, we have tried to target in those who might be most vulnerable, including kaumātua, in that testing.

Media: Are those numbers misleading, though, because they relate to a period of time when the testing was in relation to links with overseas travel, for example?

PM: Ah, but not alone, because, of course, that discretion always existed. What I can't give you is how many of those tested identified as being specifically on overseas travel, or whether or not they simply had respiratory issues and a fever.

In the front.

Media: Prime Minister, you spoke about the \$56 million to the Māori response to COVID-19; you spoke about the Whānau Ora money. I believe you said it's been fully paid out.

PM: Yes.

Media: What is the possibility of that money being topped up as we progress forward?

PM: Well, as you will have heard from my description that even the work that they've got under way, they are still rolling out. Equally, the money that was put aside for the very specific health response for Māori is still in the early days as well. We've always said where

we see need, we will meet it, but at the moment I haven't had anyone come to me and say "We've got unmet need that is unfunded." We've made the provision available; now it's a matter of just getting that support out.

Yeah, I'll come over here.

Media: Do the police just need to step up their enforcement in the regions—

PM: Do you have specific—

Media: Lance O'Sullivan put out a live video today saying that it was, basically, business as usual in Northland.

PM: Again, I would say if you can give me some specific examples, then we would be happy to deal with that. I check in frequently with the police over whether they have all of the resources they need to do their job. They've consistently said they do. They are in the process of still, when they're talking to people, educating, warning, and then they will enforce, and so that's been their approach. But if Dr O'Sullivan wishes to bring some specific examples, I'm sure the local police, if he contacted them directly—they may not have been watching his Facebook live—that would probably be a more efficient way of dealing with that complaint.

Media: [*Inaudible*] lockdown, are you satisfied with the degree of compliance?

PM: Well, we have asked a lot of New Zealanders, and we did it in a very short space of time, and I've always accepted that we'd need to keep repeating the expectation—the rules that exist and the expectation we all have. But, actually, by and large, given what we have done in a short space of time, I think the majority of New Zealanders are doing an amazing job. We just need to keep reminding that small proportion who perhaps aren't taking it seriously why it is so important.

This period of time is our chance to break the chain of transmission. The quicker we do that, the sooner we can return to some semblance of normal life, and the much better able we will be to save lives of other New Zealanders, and that includes people you know. So this isn't about "other" and it's not about someone else; it is about you and your family, and that includes every age demographic there is.

If I could just point to some of the data at the moment, because I know people think sometimes we're only talking about a specific group: the most affected age range by COVID-19 in New Zealand is far and away, currently, 20- to 29-year-olds. They are the ones that we are identifying as having COVID-19 in New Zealand. Now, they may think, therefore, that it won't affect them as much—that they'll be mild to moderate. They are our vector for transmission. They're the ones who then pass it on. So I need everyone to take this seriously, because whilst the over-70-year-olds are smaller, they are much more likely to succumb to this illness.

Thank you for allowing me my little rant. Now, Minister Robertson.

Hon Grant Robertson: We've got [*Inaudible*] and Jenna, who's been waiting very patiently.

Media: Could we just get your response to the criticism that the Government isn't releasing, consistently enough, Government data around the economic impact and forecasts?

Hon Grant Robertson: Yeah, look, I think everyone will understand that traditionally, economic data tends to come often even a month or two months after. I mean, that's sensible because it takes time to collect and then be processed. We understand in the situation that we're in right now that there's a real hunger for that data, and we do need to be trying to produce it more quickly. So as I said at the select committee this morning, I am more than willing to look at what we can do to bring that data forward and get it available more quickly and more regularly. What I would say, though, is that there's a difference between the forecasts and projections that an economist who's maybe employed by a bank

might do when they go on TV and the Treasury making those forecasts, because when the Treasury says it, it becomes, effectively, market-moving. So we've got to make sure we're putting out the most robust data we possibly can, but I accept the point that in the age we're living in now, we need to make that more regular.

Jenna.

Media: What is the worst-case scenario that Treasury have given you in terms of unemployment?

Hon Grant Robertson: So we're still working through those scenarios, and as I said at the committee this morning, we'll be releasing more information about that as soon as we can. I think you heard the secretary of the Treasury say that when it came to unemployment, there was, you know, between 5 percent and double digits, and they were working on refining that in terms of unemployment. We've seen the idea that maybe GDP would drop by around 17 percent. Those of the sorts of scenarios they're working through, but you'll understand we're updating that data constantly to be able to put ourselves in a position to say with absolute certainty, to the extent we can, what that data will be.

Media: The Iwi Chairs Forum wants the Defence Force called in to—*[Interruption]*

PM: Sorry, we'll finish Jenna's line of questioning, then we'll come over to you.

Media: Thank you. When she says "double digits", is Treasury in line with other economists who say it could go up to 30 percent?

Hon Grant Robertson: Yeah, look I those are—that's an extreme prediction, that 30 percent one. We've got ranges of 8 to 30 from economists, and probably all that tells you is that making predictions is really hard at the moment.

Media: The Iwi Chairs Forum wants the Defence Force called in to manage checkpoints on the East Coast. Are you open to that?

PM: As I understand, actually—my latest understanding is that Wally Haumaha, our iwi liaison with the New Zealand Police, has been working closely with some of the communities on the East Coast, and so I've had no suggestion that that is an issue that isn't being able to be managed with the community on the ground and the police. Ultimately, when it comes to enforcement, the police have to date said, "Look, we're well resourced, with the entirety of our front-line force able to support New Zealand while we're in level 4." But we've also left open to them if they see the need to bring in extra support from the New Zealand Defence Force, they are able to do that. But they're the ones on the ground, they're the ones that see the need, so we're allowing them to make some of those judgment calls

Media: Minister Robertson, this morning, you were also talking about a sort of commercial rent relief package. Could you just give us a little bit more detail as to what that might look like?

Hon Grant Robertson: Well, we're in discussions at the moment with, among others, the Property Council around that, along with commercial landlords, tenants, and businesses. What we want to do is make sure that there's nothing in the way of the good arrangements that are being made currently between landlords and tenants, where, I think, people are making sensible decisions in a lot of cases. But where we are seeing gaps, we want to be able to address that. Clearly, we've already moved around residential rents in terms of freezing increases and looking at stopping evictions, so we have to think about how we model consistently but also treat those people who will be in businesses that should, ultimately, be able to carry on once we're through this period to be able to get there. So we'll have something more to say about the detail of that in coming days.

Media: Does the Government have a position or is it looking at bail-outs or financial support packages for companies providing essential services that are at risk of collapse?

I'm talking about news media in particular—there's been some bad news in the last week from a number of companies.

Hon Grant Robertson: Yeah, I mean, today I talked the unit that's been established in the Treasury, which is around large businesses and network-critical businesses. That's bringing in outside expert advice from the commercial sector around what kind of things the Government could do, so that could range from anything from loans through to potential equity purchases and so on as well. We are acutely aware that those network-critical businesses and sectors like aviation or tourism—you know, we can see where the impacts are. In a lot of other areas, the large businesses are fine—you know, if you think about supermarkets in themselves, telecommunications providers, for example.

The media is an area where that sits within, I think, a broader set of recovery packages that we're going to be working on over the medium term. It's very important we continue to have media in New Zealand that represents a broad range of voices. Clearly, this is a hugely challenging period for the media sector, which was already under pressure before we got into this situation. So we'll work our way through what that might look like, but that unit that's been established inside the Treasury is designed to look at network-critical businesses and what we may need to do in the event that they get under stress.

Media: Can I ask you a couple of questions on behalf of other colleagues. Veggie growers are throwing away stock and can't plant anything for next season. Will you consider allowing veggie growers to open as essential services?

PM: Again, I mean, ultimately, we haven't reduced demand; if anything else, you would have seen that consumers are out there purchasing often over and above what would be their normal shops. And so what we need is to make sure that we've got that supply chain for those producers flowing through to those networks. So if they're in that position, no one wants to see produce wasted. Please contact the Ministry for Primary Industries. Let us know if that's an issue. We don't want to see food go to waste—not when there's so much need and not when there is still demand.

Media: Repatriation flights—what's your advice for those who got to airports ahead of planned mercy flights and now have nowhere to stay and no money?

PM: Well, again, as I've said before, we have identified where there is still accommodation available, and so those lists of accommodation is available, so I'd reach out locally, and you should be able to find through our local civil defence unit teams, they have lists of available accommodation. I expect to be giving more information on repatriation and helping foreign nationals exit tomorrow.

Media: Was there an error made in deciding German woman Helena [*Inaudible*] with her Kiwi partner couldn't board a plane back to New Zealand from Samoa on March 26?

PM: Yes, I understand that MFAT are just working through that issue now. The issue with, of course, flights out of Samoa is that if an error was made, that would have easily usually been resolved because flights out of the Pacific had been continuing, but Samoa has shut its airport, so that obviously poses an issue there. Samoa is amongst a range of countries where we need to just have a look at how many New Zealanders we currently may have stuck there, and work through how we support them to get out.

Media: The [*Inaudible*] Sheraton is the only place that has secured them accommodation amid the crisis. Is anything further being done to offer them support?

PM: Yeah, I do want to look at how many we have currently in Samoa, because I imagine they won't be the only one, even though they have some specific circumstances that led to them still being in Samoa. But, as I say, their airport has been closed for traffic both ways, so it means getting New Zealanders out has been an issue, and I know there is more than one person stuck there. So that's something that MFAT's still working through.

Media: Does the Government have a list of infrastructure projects, and, if so, what are they?

Hon Grant Robertson: That's the list that's being compiled, so that's exactly the work that's under way. Mark Binns, who is the chair of the Crown Infrastructure Partners organisation, is leading the work with Ministers Jones and Twyford, hoovering up ideas from the private sector, from local government, from Government agencies that we can look at as we move into a recovery phase to bring forward. As the Prime Minister said, that's on top of what we're already doing with our \$12 billion infrastructure package, and I can assure you there's been no shortage of ideas emerging even just since this morning.

Media: Can I ask you about clusters—is the Government going to commit to giving the public some detail around where clusters are happening? After yesterday accidentally revealing the family names, the website now doesn't even name the rest home where the COVID cluster is.

PM: So, look, obviously, we don't want to go into a level of detail where we're giving away people's private information, but you will have seen that we have been providing, actually, a reasonable degree of information about where we have those clusters. At the moment the Ministry of Health is just making doubly sure that they're not putting out identifiable information, but we will continue to provide as much as we can.

Media: How likely is it that we will see random testing within the community?

PM: So what we're working on at the moment—you would've heard our head of public health talking about this today, I believe—is that where we, for instance, have areas across the country within DHBs where testing has been low, making sure that we have enough data and enough information to really make a clear judgment that we actually don't have community transmission there and that we might be in a position, for instance, to change the alert levels for those different regions. To make those calls, we need to make sure we have enough tests. So they're working through how do we do that if to date we haven't had much testing because there haven't been many cases.

Media: The high-trust model for people arriving from overseas and then going into self-isolation without a suitable plan—

PM: I wouldn't call it high trust, but yes.

Media: [*Inaudible*] high-trust model at the select committee yesterday. Anyway, why are we not quarantining those people? And David Clark also talked about—had conversations about the use of apps to track people in those situations, that have been used in other countries overseas. Are we looking at that here as well?

PM: Other countries have used things like that. Other countries have used systems that we save for our corrections system, so there is a range of models internationally. What I first and foremost would say is that, actually, we have had people self-isolating in New Zealand since the beginning of February successfully, and it has been successful, and you can see that, actually, from where we are now—the fact that we had over 10,000 people come back and self-isolate. So that has worked, and the vast majority of New Zealanders are doing what they're asked to do.

What we're doing at the border, though, is not just a high-trust model. We are screening people. Over 1,000 now are being held in what we call approved accommodation. So they're, essentially, being quarantined because they don't have an adequate self-isolation plan. We also have some who are strictly in quarantine because they're symptomatic, so we have really stepped up what's happening at the border. There are still some people who are going home, and we are checking also on people who are self-isolating who've returned from overseas, and the police are part of that, and so is Immigration New Zealand. I'll just come to the last two questions.

Media: What would you say to a company that is asking employees to clear all outstanding leave, and if they don't agree to that, then company will look at using the Holidays Act to require them to?

Hon Grant Robertson: So it's very clear: you cannot compel somebody to take leave in order to get the wage subsidy scheme. What the law allows for as a minimum is 14 days' notice to ask somebody to take annual leave. That is the law as it stands today. Obviously, our preference is for people to get the wage subsidy scheme and get it as soon as possible, but people cannot be compelled to take annual leave so that they can get access to that scheme.

Media: Prime Minister, just in terms of using Zoom, an IT security expert has raised concerns due to international reports suggesting that Zoom doesn't provide full end-to-end encryption. Are you or is anyone looking into this, given the fact that they are being used for Cabinet meetings?

PM: Yes, so we've already received advice that there are certain pieces of information, certain agenda items, that we just will not discuss on Zoom. And that's because Zoom, really, in our equivalent system, covers us up to restricted level but nothing above that. So we are acting cautiously. There are some items that we won't take on our agenda, in line with the advice that we've had from officials in New Zealand. Ultimately, also, you know, we're acting cautiously on distribution of details for calls and so on.

Hon Grant Robertson: And passwords as well.

PM: And passwords.

Media: [*Inaudible*] Newsroom, if that's ok.

PM: Last one. Yeah, go ahead.

Media: In Southland, the DHB has the highest confirmed counts in the country. They want to know what you think about this and will extra resources be sent there, considering so many of the hospital staff have now been required to be tested?

PM: Yeah, so in Southern we have currently one stable on-ward, but we do have a number of cases—that is correct. This is something we were just looking at today, and, again, it demonstrates the impact of what happens if we have outbreak. So we've got a small handful of events—from memory a conference, a wedding—and that has led to a proliferation of cases. So again, that demonstrates why being in level 4 helps us to get that under control for where we have outbreaks like that in the community. What we are looking at, though, is the capacity in Southern. Of course, we have had an impact on Queenstown, for instance, so we're looking at whether or not—if we have too many cases down there and they may eventually need hospital care, have we got the capacity? Do people need to be moved around? If someone's coming in at the border who's from Southern, do we need to keep them up in the North Island before they go down, just in case? So we're considering all of that to make sure we're managing the pressure on that DHB.

Media: [*Inaudible*] with the roll-out of the business finance guarantee scheme?

Hon Grant Robertson: It's just the final negotiations with the banks, but what I did say today during the select committee is that banks will be taking applications this week for that scheme.

Media: I have a remote question on that from [*Inaudible*]—

PM: We're getting sneaky, but yes, go ahead, I'll accept.

Media: Sorry. Has the Government given banks any direction at all on the lending criteria they use when lending to businesses as a part of its business finance guarantee scheme?

Hon Grant Robertson: No, not in particular criteria, but, obviously, with the risk sharing being 80:20, with the Government taking 80 percent, that implies a higher tolerance of risk than you might normally see from the banks. That's because, obviously, we're in a time where their normal risk weightings probably aren't appropriate. So that's the way that we're dealing with that, and, as I say, I've had the word from the banks and from Treasury that people can be putting their names down this week.

PM: I note no one prioritised their colleagues' questions up front, but hopefully we've captured everyone's—anyone's got a colleague's question they need to put to us? Last one.

Media: [*Inaudible*] want to know, are supermarket cafes allowed to operate or will they be shut down?

PM: They should be shut down. Cafes attached to supermarkets should not be operating. OK, thank you everyone.

conclusion of press conference