

The Treasury

Advice on COVID-19 Response Information Release

December 2021

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: COVID-19 Wage Subsidy August 2021 Scheme: Second Payment: Update

Portfolio **Finance**

On 27 August 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **agreed** that, should Cabinet decide that Alert Level 3 or above will remain in place from 11:59 pm on 3 September 2021, eligible businesses will be able to apply for a second payment under the Wage Subsidy Scheme from 9:00 am on 3 September 2021;
- 2 **noted** that Cabinet has authorised the Minister of Finance and Minister for Social Development and Employment to agree appropriation changes for the Business Support Subsidy COVID-19 appropriation to cover future payments under the WSSAUG21, up to a maximum of \$2.2 billion, to be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund [CAB-21-MIN-0328 refers];
- 3 **noted** some businesses experienced higher than normal revenue due to the announcement of the Alert Level escalation on 17 August 2021, and are concerned this may prevent them from meeting the 40% revenue test during 17 August to 30 August 2021 inclusive;
- 4 **noted** Joint Ministers have agreed the revenue test period window for the first WSSAUG21 payment should be extended to allow businesses to nominate a 14-day consecutive period between 17 August and 31 August 2021 inclusive.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet