

15 May 2020

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Tena koutou,

### **Court and tribunal operations in Level 2**

Thank you to all those who have supported the delivery of essential court services during this difficult time. Your commitment to access to justice is deeply appreciated.

Alert Level 2 will present new challenges for us. As advised by the Chief Justice, on 18 May 2020 courts and tribunals will begin operating Alert Level 2 protocols. I am writing to share information that may be of use to you as we make this transition.

The judicial heads of bench have released updated protocol for Alert Level 2. This is available here:

- for courts: [www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/](http://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/)
- for tribunals: [www.justice.govt.nz/tribunals/](http://www.justice.govt.nz/tribunals/).

### **Please note that during Alert Level 2:**

- counter services will be open for filing applications and general enquires where practicable. There may be a transition period at some courts as we install some additional health and safety measures such as perspex screens for all of our court counters
- our sites may become busier, however we will continue to manage this safely
- the Government has advised that in environments such as our courts and tribunals, physical distancing of 1-metre is required
- our sites are exempt from the current gathering limits
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for all participants on request to security staff.

For more information, please see our Alert Level 2 health and safety factsheet attached.

Thank you for your personal attention to ensuring physical distancing is maintained. While we expect participants to take personal responsibility for their safety, we will also be using private security to help manage this.

### **Other services**

More information on legal aid services response to COVID-19 can be found on our website here: [www.justice.govt.nz/about/lawyers-and-service-providers/legal-aid-lawyers/whats-new/#COVID19](http://www.justice.govt.nz/about/lawyers-and-service-providers/legal-aid-lawyers/whats-new/#COVID19). Work allocations from PDS to the private bar will also continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.

Bailiffs will resume service of all documents as of Monday 18 May.

### **Raising concerns**

You may have questions about increasing public access, and health and safety standards. In the first instance, your local court managers are the appropriate channel to answer questions and alleviate concerns about health and safety.

Further information can also be found on the COVID-19 hub on our website: [www.justice.govt.nz/about/lawyers-and-service-providers/covid-19-information-for-the-legal-profession-and-service-providers/](http://www.justice.govt.nz/about/lawyers-and-service-providers/covid-19-information-for-the-legal-profession-and-service-providers/).

Thank you for your support during this time.

Nāku noa, nā



Carl Crafar

Chief Operating Officer, Operations and Service Delivery