

US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

SitRep 6 1300 Tuesday 3 March

Key developments

Restricted content begins here.

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue. US forces claim to have achieved air superiority over Iran. The Iranian Red Crescent says 555 people have been killed in Iran. **The White House says 49 senior Iranian leaders have been killed.**
- Iran continues to strike Israel, US bases in the region, and critical economic infrastructure in Gulf countries. Iranian strikes have **increasingly targeted energy infrastructure including**; a gas terminal in UAE, a state oil refinery in Saudi Arabia; and a major gas plant in Qatar.
- **An additional two US personnel have been killed (no further details), bringing the total to six. The US Embassies in Kuwait and Riyadh have reportedly been struck by drones.**
- President Trump said that the strikes will "continue until all US objectives are met", and said the operation would last potentially four or five weeks. **Both the President and Secretary of War have refused to rule out putting US boots "on the ground".**
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- Lebanese Hezbollah has joined the conflict, conducting missile strikes on Israel. **Hezbollah reportedly also conducted the earlier reported strikes on Cyprus.** Israel is undertaking retaliatory strikes on targets in Lebanon.
- Secretary of State Rubio has called on US nationals to immediately leave more than a dozen countries in the Middle East during ongoing US-Israeli strikes against Iran [our advice is for New Zealanders to shelter in place, and to leave when it is safe and possible to do so].
- Rubio also told reporters that U.S.-Israeli strikes against Iran were intended to address an "imminent threat," and went on to describe an attack undertaken pre-emptively. Ranking Democrats briefed on the intelligence have pushed back saying the intelligence did not suggest an attack was imminent.

Aviation

- Airspace is closed in Qatar, Israel, Iran, Iraq and Bahrain.
- **Although airspace is closed, limited "exceptional flights" are beginning out of the UAE on Etihad, Emirates and Fly Dubai.** Once flights fully resume into UAE and Qatar, it is expected to take at least 12-24 hours to clear the backlog.
- **The UAE has announced it will cover costs (food and accommodation) for all stranded travellers in the UAE.**

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- Emirates have cancelled all flights from NZ to Dubai and from Dubai to NZ (they are still operating Tran-Tasman flights). Qatar are still operating flights from Auckland to Kuala Lumpur, but we expect scheduled flights on to Doha to be cancelled.

Domestic security

- Police continue to support US, Israel, Iran and UAE Diplomatic Missions. Police are also conducting community reassurance work throughout the day.
- Police are aware of some protest activity. This includes activity in support and opposition to the conflict, and protest activity occurring outside the US and Iranian Embassies. Further protest activity is almost certain.
- Police report nil concerns regarding the situation at this time.

Economic impacts

- Heightened security risks in the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and Strait of Hormuz have led to some suspended sailings and vessel reroutes via alternative corridors, including around the Cape of Good Hope, affecting transit times, fuel usage, and operational costs.
- Passage through the Suez Canal has been suspended by some shipping companies, creating scheduling impacts and alternative routing requirements.
- Freight costs likely to fluctuate due to longer voyages, war-risk insurance and contingency surcharges.
- Shipping companies are prioritising critical cargo, pre-approving contingency routes, and communicating realistic delivery expectations with customers.
- Brent crude has risen by 10% to more than US\$82 a barrel. Natural gas prices rose by nearly 50% on Monday after a major Qatari LNG supplier said it would halt production. TSY's rule of thumb is that an oil price rise of US\$10/b is likely to increase NZ petrol prices by about 10 cents per litre.
- Treasury provided an update to MoF after Asian markets closed yesterday, noting the market's reaction has been more muted than previously anticipated.
- MFAT(ECO) is drafting a submission to MTI (with the PM and other economic ministers referred) on the trade/economic impacts of the conflict. Intention is to put the submission up tomorrow.
- MFAT is working with economic agencies on an Exporters Webinar, to provide an overview of our response and the trade/economic impacts, and answer any questions exporters may have. Timing for this is TBC.

International responses

- s6(b)(ii)

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- **Southeast Asia governments** (Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines) have reacted with growing alarm, calling for restraint, ceasing escalation and resort to dialogue and negotiation. Malaysia has emerged as one of the strongest voices in the region condemning the strikes against Iran and the killing of Khamenei.
- **UN and humanitarian agencies** have voiced alarm over the escalation of conflict across the Middle East with the International Committee of the Red Cross urging all parties to uphold international humanitarian law and protect civilians and essential infrastructure. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a statement deploring both the US' and Israel's strikes against Iran as well as Iran's retaliatory strikes and calling for de-escalation and a return to the negotiating table.

Consular support

- As at **1100 Tuesday 3 March**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to 2,410. Registrants in the UAE have increased to 1,408. Others have also increased, including : Qatar 332, Saudi Arabia 298, Egypt 92, Israel 78, Jordan 34, Kuwait 54, Bahrain 49, Iran 29, Iraq 4, Oman 20, Lebanon 12.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be significantly higher.
- We are aware that a number of New Zealanders are having difficulty registering their details on SafeTravel or receiving SafeTravel messages. We have identified an issue that was preventing some messages getting to some recipients and will resend relevant SafeTravel messages to them. We have updated our SafeTravel website feature ([Registering on SafeTravel](#)) and the Call Script with advice on how to troubleshoot common problems and will also be providing this in response to media enquiries.
- Call volumes and email enquiries are steady. Some are asking whether New Zealand will be arranging repatriation flights from the region. **As above, some are noting difficulties registering on SafeTravel.** Volumes – and demands – are likely to increase the longer airspace remains closed and flight disruptions continue.
- We are monitoring the situation in Cyprus following the drone strike on an RAF airbase and are in touch with partners (who have not, as at time of writing, changed their travel advisories).
- The following information for New Zealanders in the region is planned for the next 24 hours:
 - Updated advice on our SafeTravel website on how to register.
 - Updated Call Script to the MBIE contact centre.

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- An update, as required, to the SafeTravel message that was sent to registrants yesterday on airport closures and airline disruptions.
- A further short update on the situation and links to advice on the Ministry's Facebook, LinkedIn, and X channels.
- Provide a SafeTravel infosheet for Stuff.co.nz to amplify messaging to travellers in their live travel blog.

Post operations and staff welfare

- Staff in ABD have been sheltering in place but were able to visit the Embassy briefly on Monday ^{s6(a)}
- Two staff currently travelling in Jordan are scheduled to return to ANK at 9:30pm NZT on Tuesday. ^{s6(b)(i)}
- Staff in ANK and RIY continue to be able to access our offices.

NZDF deployments in the region

- ^{s6(a)}

NZ agency response and coordination

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)

Response Operations	The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm. Key contacts: Incident Controller: MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz Response manager: MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz Intel: MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz Consular: CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz
Next Due	SitRep 4/3 0900

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

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US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

SitRep 0900 Wednesday 4 March

Key messages

UNCLASSIFIED

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that is evolving rapidly. New Zealand is concerned about the escalation. We call on Iran to cease its retaliatory attacks in the region. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.
- We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.
- New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.
- In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

Consular

- Our thoughts go out to all those affected by the conflict, and to the New Zealand families who are understandably worried about their loved ones overseas.
- Ensuring the safety of New Zealand citizens including government employees in the region is the highest priority of the New Zealand response to this crisis.
- We have temporarily closed the New Zealand Embassy in Riyadh to in-person visits. The Embassy in Abu Dhabi also remains temporarily closed. Staff in both countries are working remotely.
- Closures or restrictions of airspace around the Middle East have caused widespread travel disruption for many New Zealanders. New Zealanders should closely monitor developments and local advice.
- We urge all New Zealanders in the region to register with SafeTravel. During events like this, SafeTravel is the main tool MFAT uses to communicate with New Zealanders on the ground. We urge all New Zealanders in the region to register.
- SafeTravel registrations of New Zealanders in the region are at 2,467. The majority (1,498) are in the UAE.
- While attacks continue and airspace remains closed in many countries, our advice to New Zealanders is to shelter in place. New Zealanders should leave when it is safe and possible to do so.

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- Updated messaging has been sent to all registrants overnight with updates on the security situations in their locations.
- The Ministry is coordinating with consular teams in a number of countries on how to help our people in the region. We are not considering evacuation flights. Given airspace across the region is currently closed, the quickest way for New Zealanders to return home will be commercial flights once they resume.
- We advise New Zealanders to keep in contact with their airlines, travel agents and insurers so that they can use commercial travel as soon as the airspace reopens.
- New Zealanders requiring urgent consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.
- We have responded to all New Zealanders who have directly reached out to consular@mfat.govt.nz for assistance accessing SafeTravel.

Key developments

Restricted content begins here.

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue. The Iranian Red Crescent says 787 people have been killed in Iran. The White House says 49 senior Iranian leaders have been killed.
- Israel has reportedly struck a meeting of the Assembly of Experts, a group of Iranian religious and political leaders convened to select a new Supreme Leader.
- Iran continues to strike Israel, US bases in the region, and critical economic infrastructure (including energy production) in Gulf countries. The rate of Iranian strikes has decreased from the initial days of the conflict.
- Six US personnel have been killed to date. The US Embassies in Kuwait and Riyadh have reportedly been struck by drones, causing minor damage.
- President Trump said that the US had the capability to sustain military operations "far longer" than projected timeframes. ^{s9(2)(g)(i)}
- Israel has intensified strikes on Hezbollah sites in Lebanon and sent troops into the south of the country. The Lebanese Government says 58,000 people in Lebanon are displaced.
- ^{s6(a)}

Secretary Rubio has said the US acted due to an understanding that Israel was about to act. President Trump then later said "I might have forced Israel's hand...it was my opinion that [Iran] was going to act first".
- President Trump says the United States plans cut off all trade with Spain after the European country refused to let the US military use its bases for missions linked to

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strikes on Iran. The President added he told US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to "cut off all dealings" with Spain.

- The IAEA said Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment site sustained some damage in US-Israeli air strikes, but without radiological consequences. It also said IAEA inspectors have not found evidence of a coordinated Iranian programme to build nuclear weapons.

Aviation

- Airspace is closed for Qatar, Iran, Iraq and Bahrain. Jordan has announced the reopening of its airspace. Israel will partially open its airspace on Thursday for limited incoming flights aimed at bringing home citizens stuck abroad.
- Limited flights have resumed out of the UAE on Etihad, Emirates and Fly Dubai. Once flights fully do resume into UAE and Qatar, it is expected to take at least 12-24 hours to clear the backlog.
- The UAE has announced it will cover food and accommodation costs for all stranded travellers in the UAE. Qatar is also supporting stranded travellers.
- There has been no official announcement on flights to Australia or New Zealand. s9(2)(ba)(i)

This is not public. We have said to New Zealanders that our Embassy in Abu Dhabi is seeking urgent confirmation of the planned resumption and status of flights to New Zealand from Dubai and Doha.

Shipping

- The Strait of Hormuz technically remains open, but the IRGC is warning that transiting vessels will be attacked (five to date). s9(2)(g)(i)
- Global shipping companies are experienced in re-routing. Some New Zealand consignments are routinely routed through the Panama Canal, rather than Suez, which reduces exposure to disruption. Nevertheless, freight costs are likely to fluctuate due to longer voyages, war-risk insurance, and contingency surcharges.

Domestic security

- Police report no concerns or planned events of note at this time. Police continue to provide support and reassurance to communities and affected Diplomatic missions, including through high visibility patrols.

Economic impacts

- Global markets have responded to events with a clear but not extreme risk-off reaction (unlike when Russia invaded Ukraine). European share markets were down more than 3% on Tuesday, and US markets opened between 2-3% lower.

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- Brent crude oil prices have risen to US\$82 a barrel. TSY's rule of thumb is that an oil price rise of US\$10/b is likely to increase NZ petrol prices by about 10 cents per litre. European natural gas prices have roughly doubled over the past two days.
- In addition to LNG, Qatar's state-owned energy company said it would stop production of some downstream products including urea, polymers, methanol, and aluminum. Iraq said it would halt production in a key oil field due to a shortage of tankers in the Persian Gulf.
- Saudi Aramco reportedly plans to review alternative routes to export its crude oil to avoid the Strait of Hormuz.
- Government agencies – MPI, MFAT and NZTE - are reaching out to affected sectors. This includes discussions with sector bodies for dairy, meat, horticulture, wine and wood sectors about disruption to shipping logistics, storage capacity issues, and so on.
- An MFAT (ECO) submission will go up to MTI **today** (with the PM and other economic ministers referred) on the trade/economic impacts of the conflict.
- MFAT is working with economic agencies on an Exporters Webinar, to provide an overview of our response and the trade/economic impacts, and answer any questions exporters may have, scheduled for Friday.

International responses

- **UK** Foreign Secretary Cooper said 130,000 British nationals had registered in Middle East as of Tuesday. The UK will charter a repatriation flight from Oman for vulnerable nationals "in coming days"
- **France** and **Greece** have indicated that they will repatriate at-risk citizens.
- The United States is securing military and charter flights to evacuate Americans from the Middle East
- The **UK** has deployed "a significant level of defensive capability" to Cyprus.
- s9(2)(g)(i)

Consular support

- As at **2030 Tuesday 3 March**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to 2,467. Registrants in the UAE have increased to 1,498. Others have also increased, including Qatar 346, Saudi Arabia 331, Egypt 112, Israel 79, Jordan 34, Kuwait 61, Bahrain 51, Iran 29, Iraq 4, Oman 22, Lebanon 12.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be significantly higher.

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- Call volumes and email enquiries are increasing. Most are from New Zealanders stranded in the region seeking advice. Some are asking whether New Zealand will be arranging repatriation flights from the region. Some are noting difficulties registering on SafeTravel (see below). These have declined over the course of today. Overall volumes – and demands – are likely to continue to increase the longer airspace remains closed and flight disruptions continue.

SafeTravel Advice

- We are aware that a small number of New Zealanders have had difficulty registering their details on SafeTravel or receiving SafeTravel messages. [This technical issue has now been resolved, and communication impacts have been remedied.](#)
- Our public messaging continues to note that “We are not considering evacuation flights. Given airspace across the region is currently closed, the quickest way for New Zealanders to return home will be commercial flights once they resume.”
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- We are aware that the US, UK and Australia are actively considering assisted departure operations. Some European countries have these actively underway.
- We are actively working on assisted departure contingency planning, including with NZDF/MoD. Contact has also been made today with Air New Zealand and charter companies.
- As noted above, some flights out of the UAE have resumed. Currently, these are short or medium haul only. As of Tuesday morning 3 March UAE time, 50 flights had departed that morning from Dubai International Airport.

Post operations and staff welfare

- [Staff in ABD will continue to shelter in place.](#)
- [Embassies in ANK and RIY remain open and staff are able to access our offices.](#)

NZDF deployments in the region

- s6(a)

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NZ agency response and coordination

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)

Response Operations

The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.

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MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479

Next SitRep Due 4/3 1300

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US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

SitRep 1300 Wednesday 4 March

Key messages

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- This is a complex and dangerous situation that is evolving rapidly. New Zealand is concerned about the escalation. We call on Iran to cease its retaliatory attacks in the region. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.
- We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.
- New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.
- In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

Consular

- We have alerted New Zealanders in the region (via SafeTravel) that commercial flights out of the UAE are slowly resuming. If it is safe and possible to do so, New Zealanders should leave the region now.
- We recognise that won't be possible for everyone given significant airspace closures remain in place elsewhere. For New Zealanders in locations where this is the case, or where the security situation remains unsafe, we continue to recommend sheltering in place.
- The Ministry is coordinating with consular teams in a number of countries on how to help our people in the region. Our consular advice is clear – if it is safe and possible to do so, New Zealanders in the Middle East should leave now.
- New Zealanders who are in locations where airspace is closed or the security situation means it is unsafe to move, should shelter in place.
- As the Minister of Foreign Affairs said this morning, we are exploring all options to support New Zealanders in the region and are in close contact with other governments on their plans.
- But the reality is that airspace remains closed across large parts of the Middle East. This is preventing planes from arriving into the region. The quickest way for New Zealanders to return home will be commercial flights once they resume.

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- We advise New Zealanders to keep in contact with their airlines, travel agents and insurers so that they can use commercial travel as soon as it is possible to do so.
- We urge all New Zealanders in the region to register with SafeTravel. During events like this, SafeTravel is the main tool MFAT uses to communicate with New Zealanders on the ground. Key messages are also being shared on the SafeTravel Facebook account.
- New Zealanders requiring urgent consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

Key developments

Restricted content begins here.

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue. President Trump has indicated the intensity of US strikes will increase in coming days.
- Iran continues to strike Israel, US bases and diplomatic facilities in the region, and critical economic infrastructure (including energy production) in Gulf countries.
- Iran has decreased its rate of missile and drone strikes from the first 48 hours of the conflict. s9(2)(g)(i)
- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- Israel has intensified strikes on Hezbollah sites in Lebanon and expanded its presence in the south of the country. The Lebanese Government says 58,000 people in Lebanon are displaced.
- s6(a)
- A range of countries, including the UK, Australia, the US and European countries, are discussing repatriation flights from the Middle East.
- Deceased Supreme Leader Khamenei's son Mojtaba has reportedly been appointed as the new Supreme Leader.
- New Zealand's Embassy in Tehran reports (4/3):
 - s6(a)
 - Escalatory steps remain and the regime appears to still be pacing itself.
 - The regime is looking to leverage the Supreme Leader's martyrdom to harden the backbone of domestic supporters and ignite regional Shia support.

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- There is nothing to indicate the regime is looking for a ceasefire. As Iran's foreign Ministry Spokesperson stated today, '*now is the time for war.*'
- s6(a)

Aviation

- Limited flights have resumed out of Dubai and are expected to increase in the coming days. s9(2)(ba)(ii)
- The UAE has announced it will cover food and accommodation costs for all stranded travellers in the UAE. Qatar is also supporting stranded travellers.
- There has been no official announcement on flights to Australia or New Zealand. We have privately received some s9(2)(ba)(ii) This is not public.
- s9(2)(ba)(ii)

Shipping

- Shipping through the Middle East, including the Strait of Hormuz, has greatly decreased. Some shipping is being re-routed through the Cape of Good Hope, at an increased freight cost.
- President Trump has announced that the US Navy will begin escorting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and will provide insurance for trade through the Persian Gulf.
- Global shipping companies are experienced in re-routing. Some New Zealand consignments are routinely routed through the Panama Canal, rather than Suez, which reduces exposure to disruption. Nevertheless, freight costs are likely to fluctuate due to longer voyages, war-risk insurance, and contingency surcharges.

Domestic security

- Police report no concerns or planned events of note at this time. Police continue to provide support and reassurance to communities and affected Diplomatic missions, including through high visibility patrols.

Economic impacts

- TSY's update today (4/3) notes that the risk-off reaction in markets intensified in overnight trading. Global equity markets fell and energy prices increased further. US Treasury yields rose modestly. The US dollar was stronger and the NZ dollar weakened.

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- Brent crude ended the day at US\$82 per barrel, having traded as high as US\$85. European gas prices surged 22% on top of yesterday's 39% gain.
- Global equity markets fell overnight. Japan's Nikkei closed down 3.1%, and Korea's Kospi plunged 7.2%, the Euro Stoxx 600 index closed down 3.1%. The US S&P500 fell 0.7%.
- In the US, 10-year Treasury bonds rose fractionally to 4.06%.
- Westpac and ANZ published their views on the economic impacts of higher oil prices on economic growth and inflation in New Zealand.
 - Westpac noted that the longer and more intense the disruption, the larger the real GDP impacts. ^{s9(2)(g)(i)}
 - In a scenario where oil prices rise to \$US100/b, New Zealand GDP growth could be around 0.3 percentage points lower than otherwise by the end of the year and inflation could be 1 percentage point higher.
 - In more severe disruptions: a one-month Strait of Hormuz closure raises CPI by around 1.6 percentage points and lowers GDP by around 0.5 percentage points; while a three-month disruption lifts the CPI by around 3 percentage points and lowers GDP by around 0.7 percentage points.
 - ANZ noted upside risks to the inflation outlook and to inflation expectations, and downside risks to domestic activity, but considered it too early to make changes to their forecasts.
- Government agencies – MPI, MFAT and NZTE - are reaching out to affected sectors. This includes discussions with sector bodies for dairy, meat, horticulture, wine and wood sectors about disruption to shipping logistics, storage capacity issues, and so on.
- An MFAT (ECO) submission will go up to MTI today (with the PM and other economic ministers referred) on the trade/economic impacts of the conflict.
- MFAT is working with economic agencies on an Exporters Webinar, to provide an overview of our response and the trade/economic impacts, and answer any questions exporters may have, scheduled for Friday.

International reactions

- ^{s6(b)(i)}
- **Chile** has condemned the US/Israel attacks against Iran, as well as Iran's response. Chile has stated it believes in and defends, in all circumstances, the unrestricted respect for human rights and the observance of international law.

Consular support

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- As at **1100 Wednesday 4 March**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to 2924. Registrants in the UAE have increased to 1743. Others have also increased, including Qatar 382, Saudi Arabia 377, Egypt 120, Jordan 39, Kuwait 61, Bahrain 51, Iran 29, Iraq 6, Oman 29, Lebanon.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be significantly higher.
- Call volumes and email enquiries are steady. Most are from New Zealanders stranded in the region seeking reassurance, updates on the situation and departure advice. Some are asking whether New Zealand will be arranging repatriation flights from the region.
- The technical issues experienced by some trying to register on Safe Travel have now been resolved, and all associated call-backs have been made. Overall call volumes – and demands – are likely to continue to increase the longer airspace remains closed, and flight disruptions continue.

SafeTravel Advice

- Our public messaging continues to note that “We are not considering evacuation flights. Given airspace across the region is currently closed, the quickest way for New Zealanders to return home will be commercial flights once they resume.”
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- We are aware that the US, UK and Australia are actively considering assisted departure operations. Some European countries have these actively underway.
- We are actively working on assisted departure contingency planning, including with NZDF/MoD. Contact has also been made today with Air New Zealand and charter companies.
- If a decision is taken to offer assisted departure flights, in addition to New Zealand citizens and their immediate family members, we would also offer seats to Pacific Island nationals returning home.
- Some flights out of the UAE have resumed. As of Wednesday morning 4 March, 74 flights have departed or are scheduled to depart from Dubai International Airport.
- New Zealanders requiring urgent consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.
- We have responded to all New Zealanders who have directly reached out to consular@mfat.govt.nz for assistance accessing SafeTravel.

Post operations and staff welfare

- **TEH:** s6(d), s9(2)(a)

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- ABD and RIY - s9(2)(a)

Internet and phone services
are operating as normal.

- ANK and CAI - Business operations continue as normal.

NZDF deployments in the region

- s6(a)

s6(a)

NZ agency response and coordination

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)

**Response
Operations**

The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.

Key contacts:

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Response manager: MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz

Intel: MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz

Consular: CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz

MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479

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Next SitRep 5/3 0900
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Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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US/Israel/Iran Conflict Response

SitRep#9 0900 Thursday 5 March

Key messages -

UNCLASSIFIED

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that is evolving rapidly. New Zealand is concerned about the escalation. We call on Iran to cease its retaliatory attacks in the region. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.
- We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.
- New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.
- In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.
- We are monitoring the strikes and troop movements in southern Lebanon and northern Israel.
- While we understand the Israeli response, we would also urge caution. The biggest risk right now is the situation deteriorating into a multi-pronged regional conflict.

Consular

- The New Zealand Government announced today (5 March) it will pre-deploy New Zealand consular staff and two New Zealand Defence Force planes to the region so that they can be ready when conditions allow to assist with any civilian evacuation options.
- It will take some days for arrangements to be put in place so in the meantime we continue to advise New Zealanders to depart the region if it is safe for them to do so and they are able to depart using commercial flights or other avenues.
- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel. Key messages are also being shared on the SafeTravel Facebook account.
- We have alerted New Zealanders in the region (via SafeTravel) that commercial flights out of the UAE are slowly resuming. If it is safe and possible to do so, New Zealanders should leave the region now.

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- For New Zealanders in parts of the region where airspace closures remain in place, or the security situation remains unsafe, we continue to recommend sheltering in place.
- We advise New Zealanders to keep in contact with their airlines, travel agents and insurers so that they can use commercial travel as soon as it is possible to do so.
- New Zealanders requiring consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

Key developments

Restricted content begins here.

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue as the death toll in Iran reportedly surpasses 1,000. US Defense Secretary announced overnight that "more forces are arriving" and "four days in, we have only just begun the fight".
- The US has confirmed that it attacked the Iranian naval vessel that sunk off Sri Lanka's coast – the first time the US Navy has sunk an enemy vessel using a torpedo since WWII.
- Iran continues (at a decreased rate) to strike Israel, US bases and diplomatic facilities in the region, and critical economic infrastructure (including energy production) in Gulf countries.
- The New Zealand Embassy in Riyadh reports (5/3) that there has been a noticeable drop in the tempo of consular enquiries and reported attacks across Saudi Arabia and accreditation countries (Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait).
- A ballistic missile heading toward Türkiye's airspace was intercepted by NATO defence systems. It is unclear if the missile was targeting Türkiye or Cyprus.
- On 4/3, French and British jets downed Iranian drones in UAE and Jordanian airspace, respectively. France and the UK will each send an aircraft carrier to the eastern Mediterranean.
- Israel has intensified strikes on Hezbollah sites in Lebanon and expanded its presence in the south of the country. The Lebanese Government says 65,000 people in Lebanon are displaced. Iran has threatened to "target Israeli embassies worldwide" if Israel attacks Iran's embassy in Beirut.
- The US Senate will vote on a bipartisan resolution today (5/3) aimed at restricting President Trump's authority to launch military operations against Iran.
- The UAE and Qatari forces are having to carefully manage how many interceptors they fire at each coming Iranian missile and drone to ensure they can outlast the continuing Iranian assault.

Aviation

Repatriation flights

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- s6(b)(i)
- Canada is planning a chartered flight out of Oman but planning is still in early stages. Canada is exploring bus options from Qatar/Bahrain too.
- Singapore is considering busing nationals from Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait to Saudi Arabia then flying them out commercially.
- s6(b)(i)

Commercial flights in and out of the Gulf

- Tomorrow's (5th March) scheduled Emirates flight (EK448) to Auckland was cancelled. The UAE's airspace is running under an emergency protocol which means several layers of approval are required to operate aircraft. s6(a)

we note that some New Zealanders are rebooking on tomorrow's scheduled EK flight to Sydney.

- Qatar's airspace remains fully closed. Ben Gurion (Tel Aviv) approved a phased reopening framework from Wednesday night. As referenced above, all UAE operations remain under a temporary security structure requiring UAE government and military approval. Flights can be cancelled at any time.
- Commercial flights are available to depart Lebanon. No countries are currently planning repatriation flights.
- While flights are not departing Tel Aviv, New Zealanders can depart via the Taba border to Egypt 24/7.

Shipping

- All major shipping carriers have suspended transit through the Strait of Hormuz as it remains closed. Several shipping lines have implemented war-risk surcharges and route diversions, redirecting container services to avoid the Gulf.
- President Trump has announced that the US Navy will begin escorting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and will provide insurance for trade through the Persian Gulf.
- Some New Zealand consignments are routinely routed through the Panama Canal, rather than Suez, which reduces exposure to disruption. Nevertheless, freight costs are likely to fluctuate due to longer voyages, war-risk insurance, and contingency surcharges.

Domestic security

- Police report no concerns or planned events of note at this time. Police continue to provide support and reassurance to communities and affected Diplomatic missions, including through high visibility patrols.

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Economic impacts

- MFAT's Economic Division provided an update for Ministers on 4 March noting:
 - At \$3.4bn, New Zealand's total exports to the Persian Gulf region represent just 3.0 percent of our total exports.
 - However, these exports are highly concentrated and dominated by dairy products into the UAE and Saudi Arabia, key markets for whole milk powder and butter.
 - The region is also a key source for fertilisers, representing 22 percent of New Zealand's fertiliser imports.
 - Should energy supplies through the Strait of Hormuz be disrupted for an extended period, the greatest potential impact on the New Zealand economy will be through higher imported fuel costs and lower global economic growth.
 - While New Zealand no longer imports crude oil from the region, countries in Asia from which we now import refined product have high dependencies on the Middle East for their oil supplies.
 - Extended disruption to this critical supply chain will lead to elevated prices for fuel and bring broader inflationary pressures to the global economy, including to New Zealand.
 - The conflict may also lead to increased volatility to global financial markets, increasing the risk of asset market volatility, increased risk premiums for borrowing costs, and a weaker New Zealand dollar.
 - To date markets have remained relatively calm. Oil prices have increased but are well below levels experienced in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Similarly, equity markets and the New Zealand dollar have shown some recent softening but have remained relatively stable, despite the uncertainty being caused by the conflict.

International reactions

- **CANZ:** Canada, Australia and New Zealand will deliver a joint statement on Iran at the 61st session of the UN Human Rights Council (Mon 16 March).
- **Australia:** Foreign Minister Wong stated (4/3) that Australia "was not considering sending Australian troops" to support the US and Israel.
- s9(2)(a)
- The **UN** Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran has (4/3) strongly condemned the US-Israeli attacks, which "run counter to the UN Charter". It was also "gravely alarmed" with Iran's retaliatory attacks on neighbouring countries.
- s6(a)

Spain's Prime Minister said Spain would "not be complicit in something that is bad for the world, and that is also contrary to our values and

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interests, simply out of fear of reprisals from someone". **EU** President Costas has said EU will back Spain.

- **China** has announced it will send a special envoy for mediation to the region.
- **ASEAN** has released a statement expressing serious concern and calling on all countries to respect international law and exercise utmost self-restraint.

Consular support

- As at **Thursday 5 March**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to 3,126. Registrants in the UAE have increased to 1,885. Others have also increased, including Qatar 406, Saudi Arabia 400, Egypt 120, Jordan 40, Kuwait 68, Bahrain 55, Iran 29, Iraq 5, Israel and the OPT 79, Oman 29, Lebanon 10.
- These numbers are not an accurate reflection of the numbers of New Zealanders actually in each respective country. The real number will be higher.
- Call volumes and email enquiries are steady, but we expect these to rise with the announcement of evacuation flights, and the most recent calls have been asking about these.
- Overall call volumes – and demands – are likely to continue to increase the longer airspace remains closed, and flight disruptions continue.

SafeTravel Advice

- The New Zealand Government announced today (5 March) that it will pre-deploy New Zealand consular staff and two New Zealand Defence Force planes to the region to be ready to assist with civilian evacuation options when conditions allow.
- It will take some days for arrangements to be put in place. In the meantime, we continue to advise New Zealanders to depart the region using commercial flights or other avenues if it is feasible and safe for them to do so.
- In addition to New Zealand citizens and their immediate family members, we will also assist Pacific Island nationals returning home.
- As part of our contingency planning, we are also in contact with Air New Zealand and charter companies regarding possible assisted departure flights.
- New Zealanders requiring consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.
- We have responded to all New Zealanders who have directly reached out to consular@mfat.govt.nz for assistance accessing SafeTravel.

Post operations and staff welfare

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- TEH: s6(d), s9(2)(a)
- ABD, Dubai, and RIY - Staff and dependents are confirmed safe and are sheltering in place. s9(2)(a)

Internet and phone services are currently operating as normal. Approval has been provided for dependents to voluntarily depart when it is safe to do so.

- ANK and CAI - Business operations continue as normal.

NZDF deployments in the region

- s6(a)

NZ agency response and coordination

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)

Response Operations

The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.

Key contacts:

Incident Controller: MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz
Response manager: MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz
Intel: MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz
Consular: CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz

MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479

Next SitRep Due 5/3 1300

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US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation Report #10



Situation Report #10 – 1300 Thursday 5 March

KEY MESSAGES

UNCLASSIFIED

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that is evolving rapidly. New Zealand is concerned about the escalation. We call on Iran to cease its retaliatory attacks in the region. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.
- We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.
- New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.
- In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

Consular

- The New Zealand Government announced today (5 March) it will pre-deploy New Zealand consular staff and two New Zealand Defence Force planes to the region so that they can be ready when conditions allow to assist with any civilian evacuation options.
- It will take some days for arrangements to be put in place so in the meantime we continue to advise New Zealanders to depart the region if it is safe for them to do so and they are able to depart using commercial flights or other avenues.
- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel. Key messages are also being shared on the SafeTravel Facebook account.

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- We have alerted New Zealanders in the region (via SafeTravel) that commercial flights out of the UAE are slowly resuming. If it is safe and possible to do so, New Zealanders should leave the region now.
- For New Zealanders in parts of the region where airspace closures remain in place, or the security situation remains unsafe, we continue to recommend sheltering in place.
- We advise New Zealanders to keep in contact with their airlines, travel agents and insurers so that they can use commercial travel as soon as it is possible to do so.
- New Zealanders requiring consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

NZ media coverage

- 5 March – MFA announces deployment of C-130s and consular teams [Live: NZ Defence Force planes prepare to fly to Middle East for evacuations | RNZ News](#)
- 5 March – NZ on standby for Middle East evacuation mission [NZDF standby for Middle East evacuation mission | Stuff](#)
- 5 March – “Help is on the way” Defence Force Planes Deploy [‘Help is on its way’: NZ Defence Force planes deploy for Middle East evacuations | The Press](#)
- 5 March – Middle East Crisis complicates OCR outlook [Middle East crisis complicates OCR outlook | BusinessDesk](#)
- 5 March – What are New Zealand’s global supply chains disrupted by the US-Iran conflict? [What are New Zealand’s global supply chains being disrupted by the US-Iran conflict? | RNZ News](#)
- 4 March MFA interview on Morning Report [Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters talks to Morning Report | RNZ](#)
- 1 March PM and MFA released [NZ Government Statement on Iran | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Restricted content begins here

- US and Israeli military strikes on Iran continue as the death toll in Iran reportedly surpasses 1,000. Strikes are increasing in intensity.
- Iran’s Foreign Ministry has accused the United States and Israel of striking dozens of civilian sites during attacks across the country - locations claimed to have been hit included hospitals, schools, residential areas and markets in several Iranian cities.

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- US military leaders have briefed media that Iran's missile launches have reduced by 86% and Iran's one-way attack drones are down by 73%. The US has hit over 2,000 Iranian targets.
- Iran continues (at a decreased rate) to strike Israel, US bases and diplomatic facilities in the region, and critical economic infrastructure (including energy production) in Gulf countries.
- Iranian Kurdish groups have reportedly launched a ground offensive in western Iran against the Iranian government. President Trump spoke over the phone to Kurdish leaders on Sunday. According to media reports the CIA is arming Kurdish groups.
- Israel has intensified strikes on Hezbollah sites in Lebanon and expanded its presence in the south of the country. The UN says 80,000 people in Lebanon are displaced. Israeli troops have also moved further into Syria.
- An attempt to restrict the President's powers in the US Senate has failed in a 52-47 vote, with lawmakers voting almost entirely down party lines.
- MFAT is tasking Pacific posts to provide Pacific governments with an update on New Zealand's response to the situation, including our government statement, consular response and views on trade and economic impacts.

Aviation

Repatriation flights

- s6(b)(i)
- Canada is planning a chartered flight out of Oman but planning is still in early stages. Canada is exploring bus options from Qatar/Bahrain too.
- Singapore is considering busing nationals from Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait to Saudi Arabia then flying them out commercially.
- The UK has announced more repatriation flights are being arranged for British nationals. The first dedicated charter repatriation flight was scheduled to depart from Muscat International Airport in Oman today (NZ time).
- France and other European countries are also arranging repatriation flights from today.

Commercial flights in and out of the Gulf

- Today's (5 March) scheduled Emirates flight (EK448) to Auckland was cancelled. The UAE's airspace is running under an emergency protocol which means several layers of approval are required to operate aircraft.

- An Emirates flight (EK414) from Dubai to Sydney arrived last night with 16 New Zealanders on board. Another Emirates flight departed Dubai for Sydney today.
- An Etihad flight (EY450) scheduled to depart from Abu Dhabi to Sydney sometime on 5 March local time has spare seats. Both Australian and New Zealand Embassies have alerted interested citizens to this opportunity through social media channels.
- Qatar's airspace remains fully closed. Ben Gurion (Tel Aviv) approved a phased reopening framework from Wednesday night.
- Commercial flights are available to depart Lebanon. No countries are currently planning repatriation flights from Lebanon.
- While flights are not departing Tel Aviv, New Zealanders can depart via the Taba border to Egypt 24/7.

Shipping

- At least six ships have been attacked near the Strait of Hormuz and 200 tankers are stranded in the Gulf following effective closing of the Strait. Leading maritime insurance companies are cancelling war risk insurance from 5 March. Several shipping lines have redirected container services to avoid the Gulf.
- President Trump announced on 4 March that the US Navy will begin escorting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and will provide insurance for trade through the Persian Gulf although there are limited details about this.

Domestic Security

- Police report no concerns or planned events of note at this time. Police continue to provide support and reassurance to communities and affected Diplomatic missions, including through high visibility patrols.

Economic Impacts

- Treasury's update to MoF on 05/3 notes:
 - Risk sentiment has stabilised following US offers to assist shipping in the region, including oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz
 - Oil prices remain volatile, rising above US\$84/barrel in overnight trading, before dropping back to about US\$81/barrel this morning, little changed from yesterday's close but up 14% from a week ago.

- US and European equities rose in overnight trading. Asian equities suffered heavy losses, with Japan's Nikkei down 3.6% and South Korea's Kospi 200 down 12%, but analysts expect a recovery today.
- US Treasuries were little changed and the US dollar index was marginally weaker.
- The NZ dollar rose slightly against the US dollar, trading back over US\$0.59 from yesterday's close at US\$0.588. The trade-weighted index (TWI) rose 0.6% overnight.
- Expectations of a sustained lift in oil prices continued to transmit through to the NZ rates market yesterday, with the 2-year swap rate up 4 basis points to 3.02%. The 10-year swap rate was unchanged at 4.02%.
- MFAT's Economic Division provided a submission on the trade and economic impacts of the conflict for Ministers on 4 March. This submission will be converted into a market intelligence report that will be released to external stakeholders and exporters.
- An Exporters Webinar will be hosted by NZ agencies on 6 March NZT to provide an overview of New Zealand's response, discuss trade and economic impacts, and answer exporter questions.
- MPI is liaising with exporters regarding consignments that require redirection to third countries or a return to New Zealand. Where products can be redirected, MPI is supporting exporters with certification. If the conflict persists, there will likely be domestic storage capacity constraints.

International Reactions

- Tensions between **Spain** and the **United States** continue, with Spain denying it has agreed to cooperate with US demands. French President Macron has issued a statement of support for Spain, whilst German Chancellor Merz has faced criticism for silence on the matter as Trump criticised Spain in his presence in the Oval Office.
- The **UN** has activated contingency plans across Iran and the region. UNHCR staff are mobilizing from Iran and Afghanistan to Lebanon and Syria to support people forced to flee their homes as the regional crisis intensifies. Iran hosts 1.65 million refugees and others needing international protection and UNHCR is providing support where able. UNHCR's capacity to assist returnees has been significantly reduced due to funding cuts.

Consular Support

- As at **11:50am Thursday 5 March**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to **3,171**. Registrants in the UAE have increased to **1,893**. Others have also increased, including **Qatar 411, Saudi Arabia 401, Egypt 120,**

Jordan 42, Kuwait 72, Bahrain 55, Iran 30, Iraq 12, Israel and the OPT 83, Oman 38, Lebanon 14. The real number of New Zealanders in each country will be higher.

- Call volumes and email enquiries are steady, but we expect these to rise with the announcement of evacuation flights, and the most recent calls have been asking about these.
- Overall call volumes – and demands – are likely to continue to increase the longer airspace remains closed, and flight disruptions continue.

SafeTravel Advice

- The New Zealand Government announced today (5 March) that it will pre-deploy New Zealand consular staff and two New Zealand Defence Force planes to the region to be ready to assist with civilian evacuation options when conditions allow.
- It will take some days for arrangements to be put in place. In the meantime, we continue to advise New Zealanders to depart the region using commercial flights or other avenues if it is feasible and safe for them to do so.
- In addition to New Zealand citizens and their immediate family members, we are also working through whether New Zealand could provide assistance to Pacific Island nationals returning home.
- As part of our contingency planning, we are also in contact with Air New Zealand and charter companies regarding possible assisted departure flights.
- SafeTravel content published on the MFAT NZ and SafeTravel Facebook accounts has accumulated over 214,000 views to date. We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.
- New Zealanders requiring consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.
- We have responded to all New Zealanders who have directly reached out to consular@mfat.govt.nz for assistance accessing SafeTravel.

Post Operations and staff welfare

- TEH: s6(d), s9(2)(a)
- ABD, Dubai, and RIY - Staff and dependents are confirmed safe and are sheltering in place. s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Internet and phone services are currently operating as normal. Approval has been provided for dependents to voluntarily depart when it is safe to do so.

- ANK and CAI - Business operations continue as normal.

NZDF Deployments in the Region

- s6(a)

NZ agency response and coordination

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)

Response Operations	<p>The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.</p> <p><u>Key contacts:</u></p> <p>Incident Controller: MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz Response manager: MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz Intel: MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz Consular: CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</p> <p>MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479</p>
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