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Committee Secretariat
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

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Kia ora

TIA submission on Customs and Excise (Arrival Information) Amendment Bill

Tourism Industry Aotearoa welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation paper, '*Customs and Excise (Arrival Information) Amendment Bill*'.

TIA is the peak body for the tourism industry in New Zealand. With over 1200 members, TIA represents a broad group of key tourism businesses across hospitality, accommodation, adventure and other activities, attractions, retail, aviation, land and sea transport, as well as tourism-related services.

TIA is committed to a high quality and sustainable tourism industry, as articulated in our industry strategy, *Tourism 2025 & Beyond – A Sustainable Growth Framework*, and in our operational sustainability programme, the *Tourism Sustainability Commitment*.

Tourism is a major contributor to the New Zealand economy and society (pre-Covid 21% of exports), and it is reliant on a small set of reliable data to support the operation and management of the industry. The data currently generated by the Arrivals Card is the essential heart of this data system. It uniquely records all international arrivals, their purpose of visit, where they come from, how long they will stay, and other key indicators. It also is the unique source for recording the overseas travel of New Zealanders.

The retention and enhancement of this data is therefore a very important requirement for the tourism industry.

TIA supports the process to digitise the Arrivals Card and integrate it with the New Zealand Traveller Declaration, but this is conditional on the retention and enhancement of the data generated in the new system.

We submit that:

1. Specific reference to the importance of the data currently produced by the Arrivals Card should be included in the Bill.
2. The Bill should include a provision stating that the new digitised system will continue to provide this data.

This matter has been discussed by the Tourism Data Leadership Group (TDLG) that was established earlier this year by the Minister of Tourism. The TDLG is comprised of industry leaders and government officials and is supported by MBIE.

The position of the Group is aligned with the points raised above. In its draft Interim Report, the TDLG will express its desire to be involved as a stakeholder in the process to digitise the Arrivals Card to protect and enhance the range and depth of tourism data generated and improve the timeliness of its release.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries about our feedback (at 021 609 674, bruce.bassett@tia.org.nz) and we would like to continue to be involved in this process.

Ngā mihi,

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

Bruce Bassett
Strategy and Policy Manager