

### Hotel Council Aotearoa – Selected Media Coverage

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
<b>September 2022</b>			
<b>Newsroom: Bed taxes and road pricing get green light from Govt review panel (02/09/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.newsroom.co.nz/road-pricing-and-bed-taxes-get-green-light-from-govt-review-panel">https://www.newsroom.co.nz/road-pricing-and-bed-taxes-get-green-light-from-govt-review-panel</a>	<p>"We consider local government also needs the ability and flexibility to create new revenue-generating tools, like bed taxes or congestion charging," Palmer told mayors, at the Local Government NZ conference in Palmerston North.</p> <p>"Politicians are gaslighting New Zealanders when they say that tourists don't already cover the costs of their visit. We don't have a revenue shortfall with tourist taxation in New Zealand, but we do have an allocation and reinvestment problem because politicians treat the sector like the goose with golden eggs" – James Doolan, Hotel Council Aotearoa</p>	Jonathan Milne
<b>July 2022</b>			
<b>NZ Herald: Foreign worker shortage at hotels, restaurants: New Immigration Minister says visa processing ramping up (03/07/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/foreign-worker-shortage-at-hotels-restaurants-new-immigration-minister-says-visa-processing-ramping-up/Z2Y4ENLS7XRCMNYYSWLEQWKP2I/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/foreign-worker-shortage-at-hotels-restaurants-new-immigration-minister-says-visa-processing-ramping-up/Z2Y4ENLS7XRCMNYYSWLEQWKP2I/</a>	<p>A hotel industry association said the accredited employer scheme attached unrealistic expectations to some businesses.</p> <p>The scheme had required staff be paid not the minimum hourly wage of \$21.20 but the median wage, \$27.76. That was amended to \$25 an hour for specific construction, infrastructure, tourism and hospitality jobs.</p> <p>Hotel Council Aotearoa strategic director James Doolan said the pay requirement was not always viable for businesses seeking entry-level staff.</p> <p>A severe shortage of entry-level hotel workers was impacting the country, especially Queenstown, he said.</p>	John Weekes
<b>NZ Herald: 'Dire' staff shortage: NZ hotels offer</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/dire-staff-shortage-nz-hotels-offer-guests-">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/dire-staff-shortage-nz-hotels-offer-guests-</a>	Hospitality industry leaders say unless more overseas workers can be found promptly, the country risks reputational damage.	John Weekes

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
<p>guests discounts to clean their rooms (02/07/22)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/the-monitor/128768913/tourism-cautiously-optimistic-as-bookings-build-despite-another-summer-without-the-chinese-visitors-who-once-dominated-overseas-arrivals">discounts-to-clean-their-rooms/ND557ST6IK46OPMTM2TIZZ42S4/</a></p>	<p>"There is a severe shortage of entry-level hotel workers in New Zealand and especially so in Queenstown," Hotel Council Aotearoa strategic director James Doolan said.</p> <p>"The reasons stem from Covid, because in the first 12 months following border closures, the overnight accommodation sector lost more than half of its workforce."</p>	
<b>June 2022</b>			
<p><b>Stuff: Tourism cautiously optimistic as bookings build, despite another summer without the Chinese visitors who once dominated overseas arrivals</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/the-monitor/128768913/tourism-cautiously-optimistic-as-bookings-build-despite-another-summer-without-the-chinese-visitors-who-once-dominated-overseas-arrivals">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/the-monitor/128768913/tourism-cautiously-optimistic-as-bookings-build-despite-another-summer-without-the-chinese-visitors-who-once-dominated-overseas-arrivals</a></p>	<p>But if the labour shortage is prolonged, it could have far-reaching consequences.</p> <p>Hotel Council Aotearoa director James Doolan says luxury hotels need much high staffing ratios to provide the level of service demanded by guests, so a 200 room 5-star hotel needs 200 full time staff, compared with just 50 for the same sized 2 or 3-star hotel.</p> <p>Designing for a smaller workforce is a logical response as labour becomes harder to come by and more expensive.</p> <p>"That means building more, smaller rooms on the same site, using fewer staff, and maybe self check-in and cleaning your rooms every three days. Is that the experience that luxury travellers want?"</p> <p>Doolan believes "going budget" flies in the face of calls for higher value, lower volume tourism. "If your policy settings encourage investors to build mass market product, then we're working against ourselves."</p>	<p>Amanda Cropp</p>
<p><b>NBR (Simon Bridges): To Avoid Recession, Bring Back Immigrant Workers (23/06/22)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.nbr.co.nz/unabridged/-29/">https://www.nbr.co.nz/unabridged/-29/</a></p>	<p>James Doolan of Hotel Council Aotearoa says: "[Accommodation] GMs are being forced to say no to some new bookings because they simply do not have the staff to clean rooms or service customers."</p>	<p>Simon Bridges</p>

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
		<p>Back in October, the hotel chains wrote to the Ministers of Tourism and Finance repeating their previous “warnings that there will be a damaging shortfall in tourism and hospitality workers once border restrictions ease, which will hurt the pace of recovery”.</p>	
<p><b>NZ Herald/Newshub: Covid 19 Omicron: MIQ hotel contracts cost nearly \$800m over 18 months, data reveals (20/06/22)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-omicron-miq-hotel-contracts-cost-nearly-800m-over-18-months-data-reveals/T3UYAA3NHEJCVG3ZTEAJS2USPI/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-omicron-miq-hotel-contracts-cost-nearly-800m-over-18-months-data-reveals/T3UYAA3NHEJCVG3ZTEAJS2USPI/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2022/06/coronavirus-hotels-earned-1-3-million-a-month-operating-as-miq-facilities.html">https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2022/06/coronavirus-hotels-earned-1-3-million-a-month-operating-as-miq-facilities.html</a></p>	<p>"The hotels that were part of the MIQ system were able to carry on operating with revenue levels that were similar to what existed before Covid. But all other hotels suffered massive losses of revenue as a result of losing international travellers into New Zealand."</p>	<p>Katie Todd</p>
<p><b>Newstalk ZB: Lack of tourism recruitment could affect our reputation to overseas tourists</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/early-edition/audio/james-doolan-director-at-hotel-council-aotearoa-on-tourism-industrys-struggle-to-recruit-workers/">https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/early-edition/audio/james-doolan-director-at-hotel-council-aotearoa-on-tourism-industrys-struggle-to-recruit-workers/</a></p>	<p>It is no secret that tourism is struggling to recruit workers, but the extent of the shortage is becoming apparent.</p> <p>The sector lost 65,000 workers at the beginning of the pandemic, and they're not all coming back.</p>	<p>Andrew Dickens</p>
<p><b>1News: Employers, workers divided on fair pay agreements</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.1news.co.nz/2022/06/14/employers-workers-divided-on-fair-pay-agreements/">https://www.1news.co.nz/2022/06/14/employers-workers-divided-on-fair-pay-agreements/</a></p>	<p>Hotel managers say they've lost more than 50% of their workforce.</p> <p>“People cannot be hired to clean rooms in Queenstown right now, so if anyone wants to do it for \$30, I'm pretty sure I can find you a job right now,” James Doolan from the Hotel Council Aotearoa said.</p>	
<p><b>Stuff: Tourism's visitor crisis has become a labour crisis with thousands of jobs unfilled (12/06/22)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/128912924/tourisms-visitor-crisis-has-become-a-labour-crisis-with-thousands-of-jobs-unfilled">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/128912924/tourisms-visitor-crisis-has-become-a-labour-crisis-with-thousands-of-jobs-unfilled</a></p>	<p>The pressure is also acute in Auckland where thousands of former managed isolation (MIQ) hotel rooms have flooded onto the market, and Hotel Council Aotearoa director James Doolan says employers offering up to \$30 an hour are still struggling to recruit.</p> <p>“[In MIQ] they were not cleaning the rooms daily ... suddenly there are all these rooms being occupied, they</p>	<p>Amanda Cropp</p>

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
		need cleaning every day, and they need chefs to cook breakfasts.”	
<b>May 2022</b>			
<b>Otago Daily Times: No Staff to Match Demand (03/05/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/queenstown/no-staff-match-demand">https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/queenstown/no-staff-match-demand</a>	Hilton Queenstown general manager Chris Ehmann said occupancy levels were being restricted across the board by accommodation providers because of a shortage of staff to service rooms, and the like.	Tracy Roxburgh
<b>April 2022</b>			
<b>NZ Herald: James Doolan – How Tourists Subsidise Date Night (18/04/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/james-doolan-how-tourists-subsidise-date-night-and-why-we-need-them-back-fast/MTG37LWVWUKJC3A3XTT2HUKHGQ/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/james-doolan-how-tourists-subsidise-date-night-and-why-we-need-them-back-fast/MTG37LWVWUKJC3A3XTT2HUKHGQ/</a>	<p>Pre-Covid, 42 per cent of total spending in Kiwi restaurants and bars came from tourists. That's more than \$4.9 billion in revenue each year. International tourists alone were responsible for a gigantic one-quarter of total spending at our F&amp;B outlets.</p> <p>It's become fashionable in recent times to highlight some challenges of tourism such as icon site overcrowding, while ignoring almost all the benefits of a vibrant visitor economy. Make no mistake, the range and quality of bars and restaurants in Aotearoa simply would not be the same without the growth and success of our tourism industry in the years leading up to March 2020</p>	Opinion piece
<b>NZ Herald: James Doolan – Rolling in the Tourists to fight crime in our depleted city centres (13/04/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/covid-19-omicron-outbreak-james-doolan-rolling-in-tourists-to-fight-crime-in-our-depleted-city-centres/IINTKCME3YNCIK7LWAO5LTXU3E/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/covid-19-omicron-outbreak-james-doolan-rolling-in-tourists-to-fight-crime-in-our-depleted-city-centres/IINTKCME3YNCIK7LWAO5LTXU3E/</a>	<p>It's become fashionable in recent times to criticise the tourism industry, which is said to have lost its "social licence" to operate in Aotearoa. Politicians jumped on that bandwagon too, often arbitrarily claiming that pre-Covid visitation levels were unsustainable, or that tourism does not pay its way, despite being this country's largest export earner and generating more than \$3.8 billion in GST alone in the year before Covid struck.</p> <p>It's time to fling open restaurant front doors, let cruise ships dock again and spruce up the souvenir shops. When tourists return, the surveillance effect will kick in again, making our towns and cities much safer for all.</p>	Opinion piece

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
<b>NZ Herald: Horwath HTL Finds Hotel Revenues are Plunging to a Pandemic Low (10/04/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/horwath-htl-finds-hotel-revenues-are-plunging-to-a-pandemic-low/YCEOFAUC63YN5CO4G4PLI4UQU/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/horwath-htl-finds-hotel-revenues-are-plunging-to-a-pandemic-low/YCEOFAUC63YN5CO4G4PLI4UQU/</a>	Last month's revenue per available room (Revpar) was just 28 per cent of its pre-pandemic level in March 2019, according to Hotel Data NZ.  [Herald picking up the Horwath/HCA Monthly RevPAR updates]	Grant Bradley
<b>March 2022</b>			
<b>Stuff: Easing of gathering limits could be start of Auckland CBD's rebirth (23/03/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300548059/covid19-easing-of-gathering-limits-could-be-start-of-auckland-cbds-rebirth">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300548059/covid19-easing-of-gathering-limits-could-be-start-of-auckland-cbds-rebirth</a>	"A large conference in Auckland CBD benefits not just overnight accommodation providers, but also bars, restaurants and retail," Doolan said.	Nathan Morton
<b>NZ Herald: Inflation Nation – The Impact of Price Rises in Travel and Tourism (17/03/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/inflation-nation-the-impact-of-price-rises-in-travel-and-tourism/LJ2CDPJGHQECQ7AGFGWDKEAWHM/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/inflation-nation-the-impact-of-price-rises-in-travel-and-tourism/LJ2CDPJGHQECQ7AGFGWDKEAWHM/</a>	With borders shut to all overseas tourists for almost two years, there is a huge oversupply of hotel rooms in New Zealand, meaning individual businesses have no pricing power and cannot pass cost increases on to customers. Recovery would take years.  "Hotels are in the business of providing somewhere to live for travellers far from home. Cost increases that hurt everyday Kiwis are hurting hotels and other accommodation providers too."	Grant Bradley
<b>Stuff: Fieldays' new November date will come with big economic cost (15/03/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/128046830/fieldays-new-november-date-will-come-with-big-economic-cost">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/128046830/fieldays-new-november-date-will-come-with-big-economic-cost</a>	"The lost June bookings are unlikely to be replaced with demand from elsewhere. Unlike retail goods, hotel room nights cannot be stockpiled or experienced online. There's no such thing as pent-up demand for yesterday's unsold hotel stay," he said.	Gerhard Uys
<b>Newsroom: How to turn an MIQ facility back to a hotel (11/03/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.newsroom.co.nz/check-out-time-for-miq-hotels-looms">https://www.newsroom.co.nz/check-out-time-for-miq-hotels-looms</a>	The hope for hoteliers is that open borders will return the sector to pre-2020 normalcy, but Doolan doesn't expect things to go back to normal so quickly.  "The unwinding of MIQ is going to be painful," he said. "Demand isn't going to come back in just a couple of weeks."	Matthew Scott

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
<b>RNZ: Hotels planning full room refits as managed isolation and quarantine comes to an end (02/03/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/462568/hotels-planning-full-room-refits-as-managed-isolation-and-quarantine-comes-to-an-end">https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/462568/hotels-planning-full-room-refits-as-managed-isolation-and-quarantine-comes-to-an-end</a>	"No rational tourist was ever going to come back to New Zealand if they had to spend the first seven days looking at the inside of a hotel room."	
<b>February 2022</b>			
<b>Stuff: Phase 3 Not Enough (25/02/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/127877889/phase-3-not-enough-restaurant-strawberry-fare-survived-quakes-and-lockdowns-but-could-close-if-support-package-isnt-reviewed-owner-says">https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/127877889/phase-3-not-enough-restaurant-strawberry-fare-survived-quakes-and-lockdowns-but-could-close-if-support-package-isnt-reviewed-owner-says</a>	Hotel Council Aotearoa strategic director James Doolan previously said the support package largely ignored businesses continuing to struggle with the impact of closed borders and instead prioritised businesses able to rebuild revenues to near-normal levels.	Nadine Porter
<b>Scoop (HCA Press Release): Support Package Does Little For Hotels And Other Tourism Businesses Smashed By Closed Borders</b>	<a href="https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2202/S00446/support-package-does-little-for-hotels-and-other-tourism-businesses-smashed-by-closed-borders.htm">https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU2202/S00446/support-package-does-little-for-hotels-and-other-tourism-businesses-smashed-by-closed-borders.htm</a>	"New Zealand has fought the COVID pandemic using a combination of border restrictions and domestic COVID settings, such as lockdowns, domestic borders and the traffic lights system. Why is government still refusing to offer targeted support to worthy tourism businesses that are disproportionately affected by border settings? Hasn't the border closure been a key part of our COVID response?"	HCA
<b>RNZ: 'We want our streets back' - Wellington mayor angry as protest continues (20/02/22)</b>	<a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/461906/we-want-our-streets-back-wellington-mayor-angry-as-protest-continues">https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/461906/we-want-our-streets-back-wellington-mayor-angry-as-protest-continues</a>	Hotel Council Aotearoa strategic director James Doolan said that for hotels it's been nearly two years of border closures, no international visitors, and uncertainty.  "What you're seeing in Wellington is hotels are already operating on skeleton staff, they already have low occupancy so that's 20 or 30 percent full, and a protest doesn't help," he said.  "It's like being kicked after you're already knocked out, it's not really the main problem."	
<b>RNZ: MIQ hotels will struggle with border reopening rules – expert (4 February 2022)</b>	<a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/460903/miq-hotels-will-struggle-with-border-reopening-rules-expert">https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/460903/miq-hotels-will-struggle-with-border-reopening-rules-expert</a>	Hotel Council strategic director James Doolan said outgoing managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) hotels will struggle, as short-term visitors would be put off by isolation rules.	Anan Zaki <a href="mailto:anan.zaki@rnz.co.nz">anan.zaki@rnz.co.nz</a>

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
		<p>The industry wanted certainty from the government over a full reopening, without isolation rules, Doolan said.</p> <p>"Unfortunately the government's timeline for reopening does not yet indicate when transient tourists will return because transient tourists aren't going to spend seven days in isolation."</p>	
<b>January 2022</b>			
<b>Tourism Ticker: The Four Ingredients for a Tourism Recovery (27 January 2022)</b>	<a href="https://www.tourismticker.com/2022/01/27/2022-preview-ingredients-for-a-tourism-recovery/">https://www.tourismticker.com/2022/01/27/2022-preview-ingredients-for-a-tourism-recovery/</a>	It's as simple as that: a clear reopening date, targeted financial support for tourism, a plan for winter and a willingness to tackle the short-term labour shortage.	Opinion piece – James Doolan
<b>Stuff: Auckland Hoteliers Adopt Survival Mentality (14 January 2022)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300493510/auckland-hoteliers-adopt-survival-mentality-as-76pc-of-rooms-lie-empty">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300493510/auckland-hoteliers-adopt-survival-mentality-as-76pc-of-rooms-lie-empty</a>	<p>However, Doolan believes with rising anti-social behaviour on Queen Street, retail shops lying empty and a lack of social events over summer, city visitors won't be flocking back any time soon.</p> <p>"The lack of free-spending international tourists in our city centres is one of the reasons why those locations are fairly grim, ever since borders first closed in March 2020."</p>	Nathan Morton
<b>2021</b>			
<b>(14 December 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/auckland-council-to-appeal-mayor-phil-goffs-controversial-bed-tax-in-the-supreme-court/DXODM3IRJBYF4EDUKYHTL6HW6Y/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/auckland-council-to-appeal-mayor-phil-goffs-controversial-bed-tax-in-the-supreme-court/DXODM3IRJBYF4EDUKYHTL6HW6Y/</a>	<p>"The APTR is poorly designed and almost comically unfair. It is a quasi-tax that massively increases rates for a small minority of tourism industry businesses. Covid-19 has proven beyond all doubt that the APTR does not work as intended, yet Auckland Council refuses to adjust to new circumstances and simply end this good times tax once and for all," he said.</p> <p>Doolan said Hotel Council Aotearoa has made repeated offers to Auckland Council to work collaboratively on agreeing principles for a fair, reasonable and nationally endorsed funding model for the tourism economy that</p>	Bernard Orsman



Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
		draws upon international best-practice and robust research.	
<b>NZ Herald/RNZ: Covid 19 Delta outbreak: What happens if you test positive for while on holiday (9 December 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-delta-outbreak-what-happens-if-you-test-positive-for-while-on-holiday/QNAISL5UTLYDIE7BDW74NPMK5I/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-delta-outbreak-what-happens-if-you-test-positive-for-while-on-holiday/QNAISL5UTLYDIE7BDW74NPMK5I/</a>	<p>Hotel Council Aotearoa strategic director James Doolan said the sector had good protocols in place and also needed the business of both government and private customers.</p> <p>"Good on people getting whatever work they can at the moment because there is not a lot of business around for them to do. The industry players are between a rock and a hard place. Domestic tourism is not enough to sustain the entire tourism industry."</p>	
<b>NZ Herald: James Doolan: Lessons from hospo and tourism can help our Covid response (7 December 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/james-doolan-lessons-from-hospo-and-tourism-can-help-our-covid-response/QAIY6TSGQXQGIUKAJCBFEAELGU/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/james-doolan-lessons-from-hospo-and-tourism-can-help-our-covid-response/QAIY6TSGQXQGIUKAJCBFEAELGU/</a>	Government's performance in the fight against Covid is showing signs of strain. What lessons from the tourism and hospitality industry might help Government as we transition to a 'new normal'?	Opinion piece – James Doolan
<b>NZ Herald: Auckland Council's controversial bed tax found 'invalid' by Court of Appeal (10 November 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/auckland-councils-controversial-bed-tax-found-invalid-by-court-of-appeal/ST2BR52E7LZR74K5JUB2KBUTTE/">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/auckland-councils-controversial-bed-tax-found-invalid-by-court-of-appeal/ST2BR52E7LZR74K5JUB2KBUTTE/</a>	"It is to be hoped that future consultations with industry are genuine and conducted in good faith. The last thing New Zealand's tourism industry needs now is further tick-box consultation exercises after 'in principle' decisions have already been taken by regulators."	
<b>Accommodation sector 'surprised' and 'perplexed' by exclusion from Covid-19 vaccine mandate (3 November 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/126871494/accommodation-sector-surprised-and-perplexed-by-exclusion-from-covid19-vaccine-mandate">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/126871494/accommodation-sector-surprised-and-perplexed-by-exclusion-from-covid19-vaccine-mandate</a>	<p>Doolan said no one in the sector could figure out why the "artificial distinction" had been made that accommodation was not part of hospitality, especially given most accommodation providers also served food and beverage. Doolan said hotels were too interconnected behind the scenes to be treated as separate businesses.</p> <p>Staff, especially housekeeping, moved between front-of-house, back-of-house and amenity spaces. Staff shared one staff entrance, changing rooms, toilets and other back-of-house facilities, he said.</p>	John Anthony
<b>NZ Herald: Covid 19 Delta outbreak: Auckland hotel</b>	<a href="https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-delta-outbreak-auckland-hotel-to-allow-">https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-delta-outbreak-auckland-hotel-to-allow-</a>	"I'm hearing from members that they would like to introduce vaccine mandates but it's important that the	Amy Williams / RNZ



Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
<b>to allow only fully vaccinated guests (21 October 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/126718985/businesses-want-government-advice-on-whether-they-can-ban-customers-unvaccinated-against-covid19">only-fully-vaccinated-guests/VDKBFSZO7D6XZ25STZUHYNDPKE/</a>	<p>Government takes the lead and passes legislation confirming vaccine mandates by hotels and other hospitality venues would be legal.</p> <p>"Earlier on in the fight against Covid the Government passed legislation confirming that the lockdowns were legal and I think it's perfectly reasonable for hotels and hospitality venues to ask the Government to pass similar legislation confirming that vaccine mandates are legal too."</p>	
<b>Stuff: Businesses want Government advice on whether they can ban customers unvaccinated against Covid-19 (21 October 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/126718985/businesses-want-government-advice-on-whether-they-can-ban-customers-unvaccinated-against-covid19">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/126718985/businesses-want-government-advice-on-whether-they-can-ban-customers-unvaccinated-against-covid19</a>	<p>"It is not right that private businesses take on the risk of being sued by implementing vaccine mandates," Doolan said.</p> <p>"You really need the Government to provide the legal cover if you are going to open up to litigious American travellers to come into New Zealand.</p>	John Anthony
<b>Businessdesk: 15,000 rooms available for MIQ (23 September 2021)</b>	<a href="https://businessdesk.co.nz/article/coronavirus/15k-rooms-available-for-miq-hotel-council">https://businessdesk.co.nz/article/coronavirus/15k-rooms-available-for-miq-hotel-council</a>	<p>"It's coming up to the second Christmas with closed borders and it seems strange that we have the same systems, same criteria in place as 18 months ago, when we were facing the unknown and without a vaccine in play."</p> <p>According to the council's estimates, revenue per room has fallen to just \$82 for those hotels open to the general public over the past year, down from \$214 in February 2020.</p>	Brent Melville
<b>Newsroom: Investors warned as desolate hotels claim wage subsidies (1 September 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.newsroom.co.nz/investors-warned-as-hotels-claim-wage-subsidy">https://www.newsroom.co.nz/investors-warned-as-hotels-claim-wage-subsidy</a>	<p>At the Hotel Council Aotearoa, strategic director James Doolan said it was "absolutely appropriate" that hotels made use of the Government's wage subsidy scheme.</p> <p>"In fact, if the Government truly values our tourism sector and wants to attract back high value tourists once borders reopen, the scheme should be significantly expanded so that hotels can draw on it for longer periods to offset massive losses since borders first closed," he added.</p>	Jonathan Milne

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
<b>Newstalk ZB: 11% of tourism accommodation closed or empty (27 July 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/heather-du-plessis-allan-drive/audio/11-of-tourism-accommodation-either-closed-or-had-no-guests-last-month/">https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/heather-du-plessis-allan-drive/audio/11-of-tourism-accommodation-either-closed-or-had-no-guests-last-month/</a>	<p>Occupancy across the past year was down to 42%, showing that domestic tourism just can't fill the gap left by international visitors.</p> <p>James Doolan from the Hotel Council Aotearoa spoke to Heather du Plessis-Allan about where the impact has been most significant.</p>	Heather du Plessis Allan
<b>RNZ: Domestic travel not enough for the hotel sector (27 July 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/447784/domestic-travel-not-enough-for-hotel-sector-long-term-industry-says">https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/business/447784/domestic-travel-not-enough-for-hotel-sector-long-term-industry-says</a>	<p>"I think (the data) back up what we've been saying all along that domestic travel alone wouldn't be enough to support the hotel sector in New Zealand in the long term."</p> <p>"We realise we're living in uncertain times, so no one expects hard and fast dates, but it's starting to have a discussion around what the future looks like - what are the criteria for reopening, how are we going to reopen, what happens when we get to 80 percent of New Zealanders vaccinated, what happens next."</p>	
<b>Newsroom: Curious case of the upside-down over-supply labour list</b>	<a href="https://www.newsroom.co.nz/the-upside-down-over-supply-list">https://www.newsroom.co.nz/the-upside-down-over-supply-list</a>	<p>Hotel Council Aotearoa director James Doolan says his association has not been consulted and the oversupply lists do not represent reality.</p> <p>"Our members have been telling us for a while now the oversupply lists don't match what's happening on the ground," Doolan says.</p> <p>"New Zealanders aren't really applying for these hotel and restaurant jobs, even with wages increasing significantly above pre-Covid levels."</p>	Anuja Nadkani
<b>Stuff: Hotelliers plea for Queenstown to drop 'boom times bed tax experiment' (10 May 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/125082092/hotelliers-plea-for-queenstown-to-drop-boom-times-bed-tax-experiment">https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/125082092/hotelliers-plea-for-queenstown-to-drop-boom-times-bed-tax-experiment</a>	<p>"It is almost beyond belief that bed tax is being worked on while we all fight for recovery from the worst trading conditions in living memory," said Hotel Council Aotearoa strategic director James Doolan.</p>	Debbie Jamieson
<b>HM Magazine: Politicians don't understand the hotel industry (31 March 2021)</b>	<a href="https://www.hotelmanagement.com.au/2021/03/31/politicians-dont-understand-the-hotel-industry-hca/">https://www.hotelmanagement.com.au/2021/03/31/politicians-dont-understand-the-hotel-industry-hca/</a>	<p>Many non-hotelliers believe that closed borders provide a bottleneck of "pent-up demand". Unfortunately, hotel</p>	

Publication/Title/Date	Link	Key messaging	Journalist
		<p>room nights are perishable and lost revenues are gone forever.</p> <p>Only one in every 10 hotels is providing MIQ stays.</p> <p>Hotels are key infrastructure in any healthy tourism economy, sitting alongside a country's airlines, airports and domestic transport network as the 'tourism backbone' that delivers high-value international guests into the country.</p>	
<p><b>HM Magazine: Hotel Council Aotearoa Emerges (27 January 2021)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.hotelmanagement.com.au/2021/01/27/hotel-council-aotearoa-emerges-to-push-for-spotlight/">https://www.hotelmanagement.com.au/2021/01/27/hotel-council-aotearoa-emerges-to-push-for-spotlight/</a></p>	<p>The newly-formed Hotel Council Aotearoa, incorporated in December 2020, will be led by Strategic Director, James Doolan, and has been working behind the scenes for some time, amassing an initial membership of more than 140 hotels and representing nearly 16,000 rooms.</p>	<p>Matt Lenon</p>