



## Access to Public Information Request

**Date of receipt:** 7 April 2021

**Date of response:** 12 May 2021

### Access to Public Information request regarding travel exemptions

**Request:**

In light of the recent revelation that Warren Gatland was given permission to forego the legal requirement to isolate for 14 days, I wanted to request the following information:

- 1) how many people have been granted similar permissions since March 2020?
- 2) examples of the reasons why these permissions are given to individuals, i.e. job interviews
- 3) whether the track and trace system, or any other evidence exists to suggest that any outbreak since March 2020 may be linked to any individuals who had been given these permissions. If so, when were these outbreaks?

**Response provided by the Civil Contingencies Authority:**

Mr Gatland was provided special permission, with a specific method statement prepared to ensure his visit was managed safely. Permission to travel to the Bailiwick without observing the self-isolation requirements has been possible throughout the pandemic for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, medical and compassionate travel, critical worker travel, business tunnels and individually determined special permissions for unique cases.

Critical worker and business tunnel travel is processed by the Office of Population Management. Medical, compassionate and other permissions are dealt with directly by Public Health. Here we have provided tables from both service areas.

The below table is provided by the Office of Population Management and shows critical worker applications approved for travel, by category, and approved business tunnel applications since March 2020.

Category	Approved Applications
Air & Sea Links	2,068
Business Continuity & Recovery	523
Critical National Infrastructure	259
Education	21
Emergency Services & Justice	42
Financial Stability	10
Health & Care	793
Technical Specialist Contractors	126
Alderney	2
Miscellaneous	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,849</b>

Business Tunnels	Approved Applications
Business Tunnels	113

The below table is provided by Public Health Services and covers are medical, compassionate and other travel variations since March 2020.

Category	Approved Applications
----------	-----------------------

End of life visits	129
Medical travel within isolation	19
Compassionate travel within isolation	40
Mental/physical rehab walk variation	84
Medical appointments within isolation	4
Medical travel	122
Shared care	31
Boarding school students	16
Funerals pre-Jan 23 2021	94
Family bubbles	14
Baby repatriation or similar	6
Vulnerable child or adult	8
Onwards travel to Sark	3
Armed forces or NHS personnel	9
Special care of relative	20
Exceptional circumstances	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>

Each application for medical/compassionate travel, critical worker travel and any special permissions are all particular to that application and therefore the reasons for travelling are extremely broad. As a few examples (and this is by no means exhaustive) the travel can be for end-of-life visits, providing care for relatives who are seriously ill, supporting critical business activity, maintaining essential infrastructure, enabling the technical delivery of the first Island-wide election, or delivering pets and livestock.

With regard to the question on whether travel permitted through one of the above permissions was 'linked' to an outbreak in the Bailiwick, there is no evidence to suggest this was the case for the second Wave which began in late January.

There is some evidence to suggest that the small cluster which was seen in October/November 2020 may have been linked to an approved traveller, however the suspected link relates to the cleaning of the facilities used by the visitor and not known to be related to the visitor's actions.