



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

25 June 2021

Dear Practitioners

**Approach to be taken ahead of the Government's COVID-19 announcement
Sunday 27 June**

As you know, Cabinet will review the alert levels on Sunday 27 June, after which I will issue a statement about the operation of the courts. At this time, we do not know when the Government announcement, and therefore my statement, will be made.

The Sunday announcements will cut into people's personal time, and I would like to minimise that impact for all of us. I have therefore asked heads of bench to ensure that their respective protocols for operating under Alert Level 1, 2 and 3 are up to date and applicable for the coming week, in anticipation of any announcement—short of a move to Alert Level 4—that might be made on Sunday.

In the event of a move to Alert Level 3, all jury trials will stop for at least one working day to enable appropriate arrangements to be put in place and for consultation to occur as to whether or not a particular trial should continue.

In this way, unless the Government announces additional restrictions or precautionary measures, the profession will have a reasonable degree of certainty as to how the courts will operate on Monday 28th June.

I wish to record again my thanks for your part in developing the procedures that now enable the courts to respond effectively to changes in Alert Level. The profession's cooperation and participation continues to be critical to ensuring court services are maintained.

Hei konā mai i roto i aku mihi,

Helen Winkelmann
Chief Justice | Te Tumu Whakawā