

Vote Office of the Clerk

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Speaker of the House of Representatives (M78)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives (A30)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Overview of the Vote

The Speaker of the House of Representatives is responsible for appropriations in Vote Office of the Clerk for the 2025/26 financial year. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is the principal permanent officer of the House and carries out the functions required of the Clerk specified in section 3 of the Clerk of the House of Representatives Act 1988 (the Act). While the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives is responsible for administering the Vote, the Office's primary purpose is to assist the Clerk in carrying out those functions specified in section 3 of the Act.

Total appropriations in Vote Office of the Clerk for 2025/26 cover the following:

- a total of just under \$22 million for the provision of secretariat services for the House of Representatives, including professional advice and services designed to assist the House in the fulfilment of its constitutional functions and to enable participation in, and an understanding of, parliamentary proceedings
- a total of nearly \$3 million for capital expenditure
- a total of just over \$1 million for Inter-Parliamentary Relations. This appropriation is limited to engagement with international parliamentary organisations and other parliaments, as well as Speaker-led diplomacy.

Details of these appropriations are set out in Parts 2-4.

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Departmental Output Expenses			
Secretariat Services for the House of Representatives (M78) (A30) This appropriation is limited to the provision to the House of Representatives of professional advice and services designed to assist the House in the fulfilment of its constitutional functions, and enabling participation in, and understanding of, parliamentary proceedings.	24,636	24,636	21,903
Total Departmental Output Expenses	24,636	24,636	21,903
Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives - Capital Expenditure PLA (M78) (A30) This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.	3,166	3,166	2,550
Total Departmental Capital Expenditure	3,166	3,166	2,550
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	27,802	27,802	24,453

Multi-Year Appropriations

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
Departmental Output Expenses		
Inter-parliamentary Relations (M78) (A30) This appropriation is limited to engagement with other parliaments and international parliamentary organisations, building parliamentary capacity, and Speaker-approved parliamentary diplomacy.	Original Appropriation	3,639
	Adjustments to 2023/24	1,873
	Adjustments for 2024/25	(129)
Commences: 01 July 2023	Adjusted Appropriation	5,383
Expires: 30 June 2026	Actual to 2023/24 Year End	1,532
	Estimated Actual for 2024/25	2,353
	Estimate for 2025/26	1,498
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	-

Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	27,802	27,802	24,453
Total Forecast MYA Departmental Output Expenses	2,353	2,353	1,498
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations	30,155	30,155	25,951

Capital Injection Authorisations

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives - Capital Injection (M78) (A30)	-	-	-

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.1 - New Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Appropriation	2024/25 Final Budgeted \$000	2025/26 Budget \$000	2026/27 Estimated \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000
Maintenance of Office of the Clerk functions	Secretariat Services for the House of Representatives Departmental Output Expense	-	582	582	582	582
Baseline Transfer for Information Technology Services	Secretariat Services for the House of Representatives Departmental Output Expense	-	(3,251)	(3,251)	(3,251)	(3,251)
Total Initiatives		-	(2,669)	(2,669)	(2,669)	(2,669)

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25		2025/26			2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000
Appropriations												
Output Expenses	20,806	21,730	24,147	24,974	26,989	26,989	23,401	-	23,401	24,491	24,491	24,491
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	1,202	1,688	1,472	1,360	3,166	3,166	2,550	-	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,550
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)												
<i>Output Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	22,008	23,418	25,619	26,334	30,155	30,155	25,951	-	25,951	27,041	27,041	27,041
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-

Note - where restructuring of the vote has occurred then, to the extent practicable, prior years information has been restated as if the restructuring had occurred before the beginning of the period covered. In this instance Total Appropriations for the Budgeted and Estimated Actual year may not equal Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations in the Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections.

Adjustments to the Summary of Financial Activity Table Due to Vote Restructuring

There have been no restructuring adjustments to prior year information in the Summary of Financial Activity table.

1.3 - Analysis of Significant Trends

Analysis of key movements in operating expenses:

- Output expenses have generally been increasing year on year, the increase for 2022/23 is due to funding carried forward for Media Asset Management, PPNZ 5th Edition (Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand), the Record system and digitisation of the journals of the House of Representatives. The baseline increased year on year to 2024/25 due to budget bids to maintain services and assist with wage pressures.
- The reduction in output expenses from 2024/25 to 2025/26 relates to the permanent transfer of baseline for the delivery of core information services from Vote Office of the Clerk to Vote Parliamentary Service.

Analysis of key movements in capital expenditure:

- Capital expenditure has been increasing since 2020/21 due to investment in information technology systems including the replacement of aging systems and investment in new tools.

Part 2 - Details of Departmental Appropriations

2.1 - Departmental Output Expenses

Inter-parliamentary Relations (M78) (A30)

Scope of Appropriation and Expenses

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
Inter-parliamentary Relations (M78) (A30) This appropriation is limited to engagement with other parliaments and international parliamentary organisations, building parliamentary capacity, and Speaker-approved parliamentary diplomacy. Commences: 01 July 2023 Expires: 30 June 2026	Original Appropriation	3,639
	Adjustments to 2023/24	1,873
	Adjustments for 2024/25	(129)
	Adjusted Appropriation	5,383
	Actual to 2023/24 Year End	1,532
	Estimated Actual for 2024/25	2,353
	Estimate for 2025/26	1,498
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	-

Revenue

	Budget \$000
Revenue from the Crown to end of 2025/26	3,639
Revenue from Others to end of 2025/26	1,744
Total Revenue	5,383

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to build the capability of the New Zealand Parliament and its elected members and advance New Zealand's collective interest through engagement with international parliamentary organisations and other parliaments, contributing to parliamentary strengthening in the Pacific, and Speaker-led diplomacy.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

Assessment of Performance	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
All advice to the Speaker and members about inter-parliamentary relations is accurate, practical, and politically aware (see Note 1 under Secretariat Services for the House of Representatives)	100%	100%	100%
The Speaker and members are provided with inter-parliamentary engagement and professional development opportunities	100%	100%	100%
All advice provided to Pacific Parliaments is accurate, practical and politically aware	100%	100%	100%

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Office of the Clerk in its Annual Report to be presented to the House.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2024/25 Final Budgeted \$000	2025/26 Budget \$000	2026/27 Estimated \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000
Previous Government						
Wage pressures and Maintenance of Services	2023/24	26	30	-	-	-

Secretariat Services for the House of Representatives (M78) (A30)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision to the House of Representatives of professional advice and services designed to assist the House in the fulfilment of its constitutional functions, and enabling participation in, and understanding of, parliamentary proceedings.

Expenses and Revenue

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	24,636	24,636	21,903
Revenue from the Crown	24,468	24,468	21,735
Revenue from Others	168	168	168

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve a well-supported legislature that meets constitutional requirements for the consideration of legislation, the scrutiny of executive government, and other parliamentary business, and a well-informed public that participates in the legislature's proceedings.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Services to the House and committees			
All procedural advice is practical, and politically aware (see Note 1)	100%	99%	100%
All procedural advice is accurate (see Note 1)	New Measure	New Measure	100%
Members are satisfied that the information and services provided are those they require to perform their legislative and scrutiny functions at each sitting of the House and meetings of a select committee (see Note 2)	100%	99%	90%

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
All resolutions of the House and committees, debates in the House and select committee evidence are accurately recorded, published and maintained in accordance with the Standing Orders and practices of the House (see Note 3)	100%	100%	100%
All written and oral questions are scrutinised to the Speaker's satisfaction	100%	99%	100%
All bills are certified as being printed as passed by the House and bills are prepared for assent in a timely basis and in the order passed by the House	100%	100%	100%
All committee reports are accurate and reflect the views of the committee	100%	100%	100%
Broadcasting			
Sittings of the House of Representatives and public hearings of select committees are broadcast in accordance with Standing Orders	100%	100%	100%
Specialist procedural and legal advice			
All legal advice is legally sound and is provided within agreed timeframes (see Note 5)	100%	100%	100%
All policy developments that affect Parliament's role, functions, procedures and authority have the Clerk's input (see Note 5)	100%	100%	100%
Law drafting services			
Proportion of members' bills that are drafted and printed with the assistance of the Office of the Clerk are peer reviewed (see Note 5)	90%	90%	90%
Proportion of members' proposed amendments to bills drafted and printed with the assistance of the Office of the Clerk are proofread (see Note 5)	80%	80%	90%
Proportion of instructing members we survey that indicate satisfaction with the quality and timeliness (see Note 4)	90%	90%	90%
Parliamentary Engagement			
The public have the channels and information they need to support their engagement with Parliament	90%	75%	90%
Members are supported to hear perspectives from the public	100%	100%	100%
Members induction and ongoing training is supported and meets their needs	100%	100%	100%

Note 1 -

Accurate: means that the advice accords with Standing Orders, Speakers' Rulings, and established practice.

Practical: advice is solution focused, suggesting a clear way forward, has considered technical feasibility, timing, cost, and includes a range of solutions.

Politically aware: advice demonstrates awareness of the wider political environment.

Note 2 - Information and services required by the House for sittings include:

- preparation of Order Paper for each sitting day
- scrutiny of questions for oral and written answer
- scrutiny of notices of motions
- checking of petitions for compliance with the Standing Orders
- arrangement of presentation of papers
- scrutiny of bills and supplementary order papers for compliance with the Standing Orders, and
- te reo Māori and sign language interpreters.

Information and services required by committees include:

- preparation of notices of meetings, agendas and minutes
- arrangement of hearings of evidence and brokering of advice for legislative and financial scrutiny and select committee inquiries
- management of committee papers
- preparation of draft reports and arrange for their presentation to the House, and
- te reo Māori and sign language interpretation and translation.

Note 3 - Recording, publishing and maintenance of records means:

- Hansard
- decisions and business of House are recorded accurately and published to the Journals of the House of Representatives
- committee proceedings are published to the Parliament website, and
- all records accord with the Standing Orders, Speakers' Rulings, and established practice.

Note 4 - The standards of quality in drafting legislation are that the member is satisfied with the final product to the extent that achieving the members' satisfaction with the final product allows the following:

- the legislation produced gives effect to the member's intentions
- the legislation produced is drafted as clearly and simply as possible, and
- the legislation produced is in accordance with the Standing Orders (and is legally sound).

Note 5 - This performance measure's wording was amended but it did not significantly change the measure.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by Office of the Clerk in its Annual Report to be presented to the House.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$2.733 million to \$21.903 million for 2025/26 due to a permanent transfer of baseline for the delivery of core information technology services from the Office of the Clerk to Parliamentary Service.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2024/25 Final Budgeted \$000	2025/26 Budget \$000	2026/27 Estimated \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Maintenance of Office of the Clerk functions	2025/26	-	582	582	582	582
Baseline Transfer for Information Technology Services	2025/26	-	(3,251)	(3,251)	(3,251)	(3,251)
Previous Government						
Contractual and General Cost Pressures	2023/24	1,049	1,751	2,494	-	-
Replace Hansard Production System	2023/24	404	404	404	-	-
Reprioritisation: Cessation of Radio broadcasting	2023/24	(1,417)	(1,418)	(1,418)	-	-
Wages pressures and Maintenance of Services	2023/24	1,076	1,072	1,067	-	-
House of Representatives - Maintaining Core Services	2022/23	1,899	2,229	2,229	-	-

2.3 - Departmental Capital Expenditure and Capital Injections

Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives - Capital Expenditure PLA (M78) (A30)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Capital Expenditure

	2024/25		2025/26
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-	-
Intangibles	3,166	3,166	2,550
Other	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	3,166	3,166	2,550

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the maintenance and upgrade of the Office of the Clerk's information technology, publishing and broadcasting applications and equipment through development and routine replacement.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

Expenditure is in accordance with Office of the Clerk's long-term capital expenditure plan.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Office of the Clerk in its Annual Report to be presented to the House.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The decrease in this appropriation for 2025/26 is due to an alignment to expected capital expenditure in accordance with the Capital Asset Management Plan for the Office.

*Capital Injections and Movements in Departmental Net Assets***Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives**

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2024/25 Estimated Actual \$000	2025/26 Projected \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2025/26
Opening Balance	9,455	8,870	
Capital Injections	-	-	
Capital Withdrawals	(585)	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	8,870	8,870	