

# *Vote Office of the Clerk*

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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 2026/27 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 part 5 of the Parliament Act 2025 (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 part 5 of the Act.

Total appropriations in Vote Office of the Clerk for 2026/27 cover the following:

- a total of just under \$27 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 just over \$2 million for capital expenditure
- a total of just over \$2 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	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
<b>Departmental Output Expenses</b>			
<b>Secretariat Services for the House of Representatives (M78) (A30)</b> 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.	22,117	22,117	<b>26,514</b>
<b>Total Departmental Output Expenses</b>	22,117	22,117	26,514
<b>Departmental Capital Expenditure</b>			
<b>Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives - Capital Expenditure PLA (M78) (A30)</b> 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.	2,550	2,550	2,440
<b>Total Departmental Capital Expenditure</b>	2,550	2,550	2,440
<b>Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations</b>	<b>24,667</b>	<b>24,667</b>	<b>28,954</b>

## Multi-Year Appropriations

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
<b>Departmental Output Expenses</b>		
<b>Inter-parliamentary Relations (M78) (A30)</b> 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 Adjustments to 2024/25 Adjustments for 2025/26 Adjusted Appropriation  Actual to 2024/25 Year End Estimated Actual for 2025/26 Estimate for 2026/27 Estimated Appropriation Remaining	3,639 1,744 275 5,658  3,946 1,712 - -
<b>Inter-Parliamentary Relations (M78) (A30)</b> This appropriation is limited to engagement with other parliaments and international parliamentary organisations, building parliamentary capacity, and Speaker-approved parliamentary diplomacy.  Commences: 01 July 2026  Expires: 30 June 2029	Original Appropriation Adjustments to 2024/25 Adjustments for 2025/26 Adjusted Appropriation  Actual to 2024/25 Year End Estimated Actual for 2025/26 Estimate for 2026/27 Estimated Appropriation Remaining	6,204 - - 6,204  - - 2,068 4,136

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

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	24,667	24,667	28,954
Total Forecast MYA Departmental Output Expenses	1,712	1,712	2,068
<b>Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations</b>	<b>26,379</b>	<b>26,379</b>	<b>31,022</b>

## Capital Injection Authorisations

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives - Capital Injection (M78) (A30)	-	-	2,300

## Supporting Information

### Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

#### 1.1 - New Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Appropriation	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Maintaining Office of the Clerk's capacity and capability to deliver	<b>Secretariat Services for the House of Representatives</b> Departmental Output Expense	-	4,347	5,214	4,739	4,739
Inter-Parliamentary Relations Travel Cost Pressures	<b>Inter-Parliamentary Relations (MYA)</b> Departmental Output Expense	-	218	218	218	-
	<b>Inter-Parliamentary Relations</b> Departmental Output Expense	-	-	-	-	218
Investment in Parliamentary Applications and Online Channels	<b>Office of the Clerk - Capital Injection</b> Departmental Net Assets	-	2,300	-	-	-
<b>Total Initiatives</b>		-	6,865	5,432	4,957	4,957

## 1.2 - Trends in the Vote

### Summary of Financial Activity

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		2026/27		2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
	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
<b>Appropriations</b>												
Output Expenses	21,730	24,147	24,974	26,393	23,829	23,829	28,582	-	28,582	29,449	28,974	28,974
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	1,688	1,472	1,360	2,561	2,550	2,550	2,440	-	2,440	2,282	3,255	2,492
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	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>23,418</b>	<b>25,619</b>	<b>26,334</b>	<b>28,954</b>	<b>26,379</b>	<b>26,379</b>	<b>31,022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,022</b>	<b>31,731</b>	<b>32,229</b>	<b>31,466</b>
<b>Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts</b>												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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 reported in last years' Summary of Financial Activity table.

### 1.3 - Analysis of Significant Trends

#### *Output Expenses*

The increases in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 were mainly due to additional funding to maintain Office of the Clerk's services in the face of cost pressures, with some of the increase for 2022/23 also a result of funding carried forward for Media Asset Management, update of 'Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand', the Record system, and digitisation of the journals of the House of Representatives.

The reduction in 2025/26 is due to the permanent transfer of baseline for the delivery of core information services from Vote Office of the Clerk to Vote Parliamentary Service.

The increase in 2026/27 is due to additional funding to maintain Office of the Clerk's capacity and capability to deliver.

#### *Capital expenditure*

Capital expenditure has generally been increasing since 2021/22 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
<b>Inter-Parliamentary Relations (M78) (A30)</b> This appropriation is limited to engagement with other parliaments and international parliamentary organisations, building parliamentary capacity, and Speaker-approved parliamentary diplomacy.  Commences: 01 July 2026  Expires: 30 June 2029	Original Appropriation	6,204
	Adjustments to 2024/25	-
	Adjustments for 2025/26	-
	Adjusted Appropriation	6,204
	Actual to 2024/25 Year End	-
	Estimated Actual for 2025/26	-
	Estimate for 2026/27	2,068
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	4,136

##### *Revenue*

	Budget \$000
Revenue from the Crown to end of 2026/27	1,438
Revenue from Others to end of 2026/27	630
Total Revenue	2,068

##### *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	2025/26		2026/27
	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	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
<b>Current Government</b>						
Inter-Parliamentary Relations Travel Cost Pressures	2026/27	-	218	218	218	-
<b>Previous Government</b>						
Wage Pressures and Maintenance of Services	2023/24	30	35	35	35	-

## **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*

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	22,117	22,117	26,514
Revenue from the Crown	21,893	21,893	26,340
Revenue from Others	224	224	174

### *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*

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
<b>Services to the House and committees</b>			
All procedural advice is practical, and politically aware (see Note 1)	100%	99%	100%
All procedural advice is accurate (see Note 1)	100%	99%	100%

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
<b>Assessment of Performance</b>			
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%	100%
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%
<b>Broadcasting</b>			
Sittings of the House of Representatives and public hearings of select committees are broadcast in accordance with Standing Orders	100%	100%	100%
<b>Specialist procedural and legal advice</b>			
All legal advice is legally sound and is provided within agreed timeframes	100%	100%	100%
All policy developments that affect Parliament's role, functions, procedures and authority have the Clerk's input	100%	100%	100%
<b>Law drafting services</b>			
Proportion of members' bills that are drafted and printed with the assistance of the Office of the Clerk are peer reviewed	90%	90%	90%
Proportion of members' proposed amendments to bills drafted and printed with the assistance of the Office of the Clerk are proofread	90%	90%	90%
Proportion of instructing members we survey that indicate satisfaction with the quality and timeliness (see Note 4)	90%	90%	90%
<b>Parliamentary Engagement</b>			
The public have the channels and information they need to support their engagement with Parliament	90%	90%	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 the rules and practices of the House.

**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 rules and practices of the House.

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).

### *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*

The increase in the appropriation for 2026/27 is mainly due to additional funding to maintain Office of the Clerk's capacity and capability to deliver.

### *Current and Past Policy Initiatives*

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
<b>Current Government</b>						
Maintaining Office of the Clerk's Capacity and Capability to Deliver	2026/27	-	4,347	5,214	4,739	4,739
Maintenance of Office of the Clerk Functions	2025/26	582	582	582	582	582
Baseline Transfer for Information Technology Services	2025/26	(3,251)	(3,251)	(3,251)	(3,251)	(3,251)
<b>Previous Government</b>						
Contractual and General Cost Pressures	2023/24	1,751	2,494	2,494	2,494	2,494
Replace Hansard Production System	2023/24	404	404	404	404	404
Reprioritisation: Cessation of Radio broadcasting	2023/24	(1,418)	(1,418)	(1,418)	(1,418)	(1,418)
Wages pressures and Maintenance of Services	2023/24	1,072	1,067	1,067	1,067	1,067
House of Representatives - Maintaining Core Services	2022/23	2,229	2,229	2,229	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*

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-	-
Intangibles	2,550	2,550	2,440
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,440</b>

#### *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 2026/27 is due to alignment of forecast capital expenditure with Office of the Clerk's updated Capital Asset Management Plan.

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

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2025/26 Estimated Actual \$000	2026/27 Projected \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2026/27
Opening Balance	8,870	8,870	
Capital Injections	-	2,300	Investment in Parliamentary Applications and Online Channels
Capital Withdrawals	-	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>8,870</b>	<b>11,170</b>	