

Vote Foreign Affairs

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Minister of Foreign Affairs (M34)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (A20)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: Minister of Foreign Affairs

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Departmental Output Expenses			
Policy Advice and Representation - Other Countries PLA (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to meeting the costs, as set out in section 11 of the Foreign Affairs Act 1988, of superannuation for local staff employed by overseas posts to help with the management of New Zealand's foreign and trade relations with other countries.	105	-	105
Total Departmental Output Expenses	105	-	105
Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Capital Expenditure PLA (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.	107,456	9,247	116,703
Total Departmental Capital Expenditure	107,456	9,247	116,703
Non-Departmental Output Expenses			
Antarctic Research, Operations and Cooperation (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to New Zealand's activities and cooperation with other programmes in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.	20,936	3,500	24,436
Promotion of Asian Skills and Relationships (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to the provision of services that build and sustain New Zealanders' knowledge and understanding of and relationships with Asia.	5,145	-	5,145
Total Non-Departmental Output Expenses	26,081	3,500	29,581
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Consular Loan Expenses (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to unrecoverable financial assistance provided to New Zealanders in distress overseas and expenses arising from any concessional terms and conditions that apply to recoverable financial assistance provided.	50	-	50
Disbursements Made and Exemptions from Taxation PLA (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to the refund of New Zealand local body rates for offices and residential premises of overseas diplomatic missions and consular posts pursuant to section 21 of the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act.	3,800	1,000	4,800
Subscriptions to International Organisations (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to non-discretionary payments required as formal obligations arising from New Zealand's membership of international organisations, and as a signatory to international treaties and conventions.	68,976	-	68,976
Support for Ukraine (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to the provision of support to Ukraine not within the scope of other appropriations.	-	15,000	15,000
Total Non-Departmental Other Expenses	72,826	16,000	88,826

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Consular Loans (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to recoverable financial assistance provided to New Zealanders in distress overseas to help them meet essential and immediate needs, including the costs of repatriation.	100	-	100
New Zealand Antarctic Institute (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to the development of and investment in Scott Base.	-	22,580	22,580
Total Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure	100	22,580	22,680
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure			
Act in the world to build a safer, more prosperous and more sustainable future for New Zealanders MCA (M34) (A20) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to promote and protect New Zealand's interests and values in the world to build a safer, more prosperous and more sustainable future for New Zealanders.	591,454	(7,830)	583,624
<i>Departmental Output Expenses</i>			
<i>Analysis and advice to inform New Zealand's foreign policy</i> This category is limited to providing analysis, advice, Ministerial services, and undertaking related domestic engagement with stakeholders on New Zealand's foreign policy.	98,001	5,156	103,157
<i>Deliver consular, business and diplomatic support services</i> This category is limited to the delivery of services to support New Zealand individuals, businesses and agencies overseas, and host government services to the diplomatic and consular corps in New Zealand.	88,576	(481)	88,095
<i>Management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation</i> This category is limited to the management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation.	92,769	8,336	101,105
<i>Representation and advocacy on New Zealand's foreign policy</i> This category is limited to international representation, advocacy, and negotiation on New Zealand's foreign policy.	312,108	(20,841)	291,267
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	591,454	(7,830)	583,624
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	798,022	43,497	841,519

Multi-Year Appropriations

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
Non-Departmental Other Expenses		
International Development Cooperation (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to providing development cooperation and humanitarian assistance that support the sustainable development and welfare of Pacific Island and developing countries.	Original Appropriation	2,910,020
	Adjustments to 2024/25	153,518
	Adjustments for 2025/26	(3,000)
Commences: 01 July 2024	Adjusted Appropriation	3,060,538
Expires: 30 June 2027	Actual to 2024/25 Year End	953,134
	Estimated Actual for 2025/26	996,045
	Estimate for 2026/27	1,111,359
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	-

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

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	798,022	43,497	841,519
Total Forecast MYA Non-Departmental Other Expenses	999,045	(3,000)	996,045
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations	1,797,067	40,497	1,837,564

Capital Injection Authorisations

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Capital Injection (M34) (A20)	3,550	24,856	28,406

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2025/26				
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates			Total \$000
		Departmental Transactions \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions \$000	Total Transactions \$000	
Appropriations					
Output Expenses	26,186	-	3,500	3,500	29,686
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	N/A	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	1,071,871	-	13,000	13,000	1,084,871
Capital Expenditure	107,556	9,247	22,580	31,827	139,383
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	N/A	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)					
<i>Output Expenses</i>	591,454	(7,830)	-	(7,830)	583,624
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	N/A	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	1,797,067	1,417	39,080	40,497	1,837,564
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts					
Tax Revenue	-	N/A	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	400	N/A	-	-	400
Capital Receipts	100	N/A	-	-	100
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	500	N/A	-	-	500

Part 2 - Details of Departmental Appropriations

2.3 - Departmental Capital Expenditure and Capital Injections

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Capital Expenditure PLA (M34) (A20)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	105,456	10,921	116,377
Intangibles	2,000	(1,674)	326
Other	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	107,456	9,247	116,703

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$9.247 million to \$116.703 million for 2025/26 due to:

- an increase of \$7.157 million due to the rephasing of expenditure on the Pacific Property Systems project
- an increase of \$3.158 million due to timing of expenditure on the replacement of IT infrastructure
- an increase of \$3.042 million due to the rephasing of expenditure on the Wellington Head Office Accommodation project
- a decrease of \$3.066 million due to the rephasing of expenditure on the New Zealand House project in London, and
- a net decrease of \$1.044 million due to the rephasing of expenditure for other capital fitout and minor capital works projects.

*Capital Injections and Movements in Departmental Net Assets***Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2025/26 Main Estimates Projections \$000	2025/26 Supplementary Estimates Projections \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2025/26
Opening Balance	842,771	850,798	Supplementary Estimates opening balance reflects the audited results as at 30 June 2025.
Capital Injections	3,550	28,406	Capital injections increased by \$24.856 million to \$28.406 million due to support for Pacific Post infrastructure.
Capital Withdrawals	-	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	846,321	879,204	

Part 3 - Details of Non-Departmental Appropriations

3.1 - Non-Departmental Output Expenses

Antarctic Research, Operations and Cooperation (M34) (A20)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to New Zealand's activities and cooperation with other programmes in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$3.500 million to \$24.436 million for 2025/26 due to a drawdown from the tagged contingency to enable Antarctica New Zealand to fund the capital charge for the period ending 31 December 2025.

3.4 - Non-Departmental Other Expenses

Consular Loan Expenses (M34) (A20)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to unrecoverable financial assistance provided to New Zealanders in distress overseas and expenses arising from any concessional terms and conditions that apply to recoverable financial assistance provided.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Under 10% of the opening loans balance is written off in the year (see Note 1)	Met	Met	Met

Note 1 - The measure has been revised as write-off is a more fitting accounting action compared to expensed, given the appropriation is limited to unrecoverable financial assistance provided to New Zealanders in distress overseas.

Original measure: Under 10% of the opening loans balance is expensed in the year.

Disbursements Made and Exemptions from Taxation PLA (M34) (A20)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the refund of New Zealand local body rates for offices and residential premises of overseas diplomatic missions and consular posts pursuant to section 21 of the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Number of rate reimbursements processed (see Note 1)	Retired	Retired	Retired
Number of diplomatic/consular properties reimbursed council rates payments (see Note 2)	New measure: 115-130	New measure: 120-150	New measure: 120-150 (see Note 3)

Note 1 - This was the original measure stated in Budget Estimates 2024/25. In Budget Estimates 2025/26, the wording of the measure was changed to improve clarity and accuracy. The original measure should have been retired as the wording of the revised measure resulted in a change of methodology.

Note 2 - This is the revised measure. Previous actual results reported in 2024/25 Annual Report were associated with the original measure and will not be carried over.

Note 3 - Based on actual reimbursement of 132 properties in 2024/25, coupled with four new embassies opened in Wellington and one new consulate-general in Auckland (opened in 2025), the revised budget standard is a more appropriate measure.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in a report to be appended to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to be tabled in the House.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$1 million to \$4.800 million for 2025/26 due to higher costs of reimbursing New Zealand local body rates for offices and residential premises of diplomatic missions and consular posts in New Zealand.

International Development Cooperation (M34) (A20)

Scope of Appropriation and Expenses

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
International Development Cooperation (M34) (A20) This appropriation is limited to providing development cooperation and humanitarian assistance that support the sustainable development and welfare of Pacific Island and developing countries. Commences: 01 July 2024 Expires: 30 June 2027	Original Appropriation	2,910,020
	Adjustments to 2024/25	153,518
	Adjustments for 2025/26	(3,000)
	Adjusted Appropriation	3,060,538
	Actual to 2024/25 Year End	953,134
	Estimated Actual for 2025/26	996,045
	Estimate for 2026/27	1,111,359
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	-

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$3 million to \$3,060.538 million for 2025/26 due to a transfer to Non-Department Other Expense - Support for Ukraine for the provision of support to Ukraine.

Support for Ukraine (M34) (A20)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision of support to Ukraine not within the scope of other appropriations.

Expenses

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	-	15,000	15,000

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the provision of support to Ukraine that is not within the scope of any other appropriation.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Funding to enable the provision of support to Ukraine is delivered as directed by the Government of New Zealand	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in a report to be appended to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to be tabled in the House.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$15 million for 2025/26 due to a contribution to the Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List comprising \$10 million from Vote Defence Force, and \$5 million from Vote Foreign Affairs.

3.5 - Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure

New Zealand Antarctic Institute (M34) (A20)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the development of and investment in Scott Base.

Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	-	22,580	22,580

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the redevelopment of Scott Base in Antarctica to address deteriorating buildings, facilities and systems.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by Antarctica NZ in their Annual Report to be tabled in Parliament.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$22.580 million for 2025/26 due to a drawdown of the tagged contingency to progress the procurement of long lead items to maximise the use of available shipping windows and construction seasons, in advance of approval of the revised detailed business case (currently scheduled for June 2026).

Part 4 - Details of Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

4 - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Act in the world to build a safer, more prosperous and more sustainable future for New Zealanders (M34) (A20)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to promote and protect New Zealand's interests and values in the world to build a safer, more prosperous and more sustainable future for New Zealanders.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Analysis and advice to inform New Zealand's foreign policy

This category is limited to providing analysis, advice, Ministerial services, and undertaking related domestic engagement with stakeholders on New Zealand's foreign policy.

Deliver consular, business and diplomatic support services

This category is limited to the delivery of services to support New Zealand individuals, businesses and agencies overseas, and host government services to the diplomatic and consular corps in New Zealand.

Management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation

This category is limited to the management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation.

Representation and advocacy on New Zealand's foreign policy

This category is limited to international representation, advocacy, and negotiation on New Zealand's foreign policy.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	591,454	(7,830)	583,624
Departmental Output Expenses			
Analysis and advice to inform New Zealand's foreign policy	98,001	5,156	103,157
Deliver consular, business and diplomatic support services	88,576	(481)	88,095
Management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation	92,769	8,336	101,105
Representation and advocacy on New Zealand's foreign policy	312,108	(20,841)	291,267

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	579,705	(8,249)	571,456
Analysis and advice to inform New Zealand's foreign policy	97,726	4,750	102,476
Deliver consular, business and diplomatic support services	77,102	(494)	76,608
Management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation	92,769	8,336	101,105
Representation and advocacy on New Zealand's foreign policy	312,108	(20,841)	291,267
Revenue from Others	11,749	419	12,168
Analysis and advice to inform New Zealand's foreign policy	275	406	681
Deliver consular, business and diplomatic support services	11,474	13	11,487

What is Intended to be Achieved with each Category and How Performance will be Assessed

	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Departmental Output Expenses			
Deliver consular, business and diplomatic support services			
This category is limited to the delivery of consular services to New Zealanders overseas, assisting New Zealand businesses in overseas markets, corporate and other support services to New Zealand government agencies overseas, and services to the foreign diplomatic corps in New Zealand.			
Consular services to keep New Zealanders safer abroad			
Percentage of respondents satisfied with the quality of consular services (see Note 1)	80%	80%	80%
Management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation			
This category is limited to the management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation.			
Management of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation			
Percentage of evaluations (or summaries) that are published to MFAT website within 3 months of approval of management report (see Note 2)	Maintain or improve trend	100%	100% (see Note 2)

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Representation and advocacy on New Zealand's foreign policy			
This category is limited to international representation, advocacy, and negotiation on New Zealand's foreign policy.			
<i>Representation and advocacy</i>			
Number of resolutions New Zealand leads or co-sponsors in the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council	75-85	RETIRED	RETIRED (see Note 3)
Number of statements delivered in UN multilateral meetings on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation in line with New Zealand's disarmament strategy	Baseline to be set	110	110 (see Note 4)

Note 1 - Methodology update: In recent years, the annual Consular Services Satisfaction Survey has been conducted using an external, independent vendor (Verian). In 2025, a decision was taken to not renew MFAT's contract with Verian, in favour of using internal systems to conduct the survey, run by a Ministry unit independent from MFAT's consular division. Two considerations drove this decision:

- seeking to lift survey response rates by increasing the frequency of surveying (aiming to survey New Zealanders within 90 days of receiving consular services), and
- achieving efficiency gains by utilising existing survey tools the Ministry holds licenses for.

The 2025/26 survey will be the first to be managed by the Ministry's Knowledge, Information and Analytics Unit. Consular clients will be surveyed on quarterly basis. Except for a one-off nominal change to the survey period (June 2025 consular clients will be included in the 2025/26 survey), no other changes will be made to survey questions or the methodology used to measure client satisfaction.

Note 2 - The revised performance measure improves clarity by explaining and defining "completion". The budget standard has been updated and has reverted to 100%.

Original measure: Percentage of evaluations (or summaries) that are published to MFAT website within 3 months of completion / Original budget standard: maintain or improve.

Note 3 - Multilateralism is currently experiencing significant shifts. While the quantitative assessment of leading or co-sponsoring resolutions remains important, qualitative assessment provides a more appropriate way to demonstrate the Ministry's performance on multilateral representation and advocacy. Therefore, the Ministry has decided to retire this measure.

Note 4 - Budget standard has been revised as the baseline has been established.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$7.830 million to \$583.624 million for 2025/26 due to:

- a decrease of \$24.356 million for expense transfers to 2026/27, 2027/28, 2028/29 and 2029/30 due to expenditure on specific and discrete projects delayed by circumstances outside the Ministry's control
- a decrease of \$2 million for a transfer to Non-Departmental Other Expense - Support for Ukraine for the provision of support to Ukraine, and
- a decrease of \$400,000 due to a transfer to the Ministry for Arts, Culture and Heritage to support the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust to build awareness and sustainability of the New Zealand Liberation Museum - Te Arawhata in Le Quesnoy, France.

These decreases were partially offset by:

- an increase of \$10.406 million due to additional initiatives in the Pacific
- an increase of \$7.022 million for expense transfers from 2024/25 mainly due to delays in expenditure on operating projects caused by circumstances outside the Ministry's control
- an increase of \$1.079 million resulting from foreign exchange and overseas inflation movements, and
- an increase of \$419,000 to reflect additional third-party funding resulting from demand from other agencies co-located with the Ministry at overseas posts, and for the provision of departmental services.