

The Treasury

Budget 2021 Information Release

August 2021

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Information Withheld

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified.

Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to sections of the Act under which information has been withheld:

- [1] 6(a) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [23] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [25] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [33] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [34] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [35] 9(2)(g)(ii) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment
- [36] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [37] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [39] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [40] Not in scope
- [42] 18(d) - information is already publicly available or will be publicly available soon.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Finance

Minister for Infrastructure

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister for Racing



21 December 2020

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Immigration
Parliament Buildings

Dear Kris

Thank you for your recent engagement on Budget 2021. As you will be aware, we have set a very high bar for the initiatives that will be invited for submission, limited to only the most critical cost pressures and urgent manifesto commitments.

I have considered the cost pressures and manifesto commitments that you outlined in your letter, and am inviting you to submit two initiatives relating to Immigration New Zealand's third-party funding shortfall as a result of COVID-19.

Financial Sustainability: Third Party Revenue Replacement Funding

I invite you to submit an initiative for funding to maintain delivery across Immigration New Zealand's strategic priorities and address the shortfall in third party revenue from immigration fees resulting from COVID-19.

I expect that the funding sought will extend to 2021/22 only, and that the initiative will explore options for striking a balance between:

- returning to market-led cost recovery models as soon as practicable
- right-sizing of operations for the service levels required by the 'new normal', and
- Crown funding.

While each border agency will need to present options consistent with its circumstances, I expect the Border Executive Board to play a role in ensuring that a broadly consistent approach is taken in the development of options and that any deviations in approach are justified.

Treatment of COVID-19-related Memorandum Account Deficit

I also invite you to submit an initiative to address the deficit in the Immigration memorandum account that has been incurred as a result of COVID-19; however I wish to note that this may ultimately be deferred for consideration at a future Budget or through an out-of-cycle Cabinet decision.

Please note that while I have invited these initiatives to be submitted, this does not guarantee that they will receive funding. The Treasury will assess the value for money and relative priority of all initiatives, and this advice will help to inform the shape of the final Budget 2021 package to be decided by Budget Ministers. Therefore, I expect that all initiatives will be supported by a robust case for funding and a strong evidence base, as well as scaling and reprioritisation options.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance