

# 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 Stuart Nash  
Minister for Economic and Regional Economic Development  
Minister for Small Business  
Minister for Tourism  
Parliament Buildings

Dear Stuart

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 the following initiatives in your portfolios:

*Manifesto commitments*

Portfolio	Initiative	Comment
Economic and Regional Development	Regional Strategic Partnership Fund	This initiative will be informed by the February 2021 Cabinet paper on the Regional Strategic Partnership Fund, including reprioritisation options.
Small Business	Accelerating and strengthening Business Connect	
Small Business	SME digital training scheme	I expect that the initiative will extend only to meet the scope outlined in the manifesto commitment, and explore scaling options.
[33]		

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Tourism	[33]	I expect to see a strong case for additional funding given the recent funding increases in the tourism sector, options for scaling and a link to how this initiative will align with the draft Tourism Futures Taskforce report.

*Critical cost pressures*

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Economic Development	New Zealand Screen Production Grant – International	I expect the proposal to align with the outcomes of the report-back on the fiscal sustainability of the NZSPG in early 2021.
Small Business and Tourism	Build small business and tourism policy capacity	The initiative will need to demonstrate that combinations of scaling and reprioritisation options have been explored within and between MBIE portfolios.

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. 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.

Initiatives relating to digitisation in the economy are relevant to the Digital Economy and Communications portfolio. I encourage you to collaborate with the Minister of Digital Economy and Communications, given the strong links between your portfolios.

The cost pressures and manifesto commitments that I have not invited you to submit on may be addressed through future Budgets or other levers such as reprioritisation of baseline funding. As per the expectations that I have previously outlined around fiscal management, I will not support any out-of-cycle funding requests for these initiatives unless there is a compelling case for urgency.

Yours sincerely

Hon Grant Robertson  
**Minister of Finance**