

The Treasury

Budget 2022 Information Release

August 2022

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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).

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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
- [27] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - 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 otherwise to damage the public interest
- [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] Out of Scope
- [41] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment
- [42] 18(d) - information is already publicly available or will be publicly available soon

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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



22 October 2021

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Priyanca

Thank you for your recent engagement on Budget 2022. As you will be aware, we have set a very high bar for the initiatives that will be invited for submission.

Over 560 initiatives were submitted through the Budget 2022 invitation process. Indicative funding sought totals \$64 billion operating and \$9.2 billion capital across the forecast period. That is far beyond the funding available and has required me to make early decisions to allow for an effective Budget process.

Even with early prioritisation, I still need your assistance to support the Budget process. I have had to carefully reduce the number of potential Budget 2022 initiatives through the invitation process. This will reduce wasted effort and ensure that the Budget decision-making stage is as strategic and targeted as possible, supported by robust value-for-money analysis and confidence of delivery.

I expect a reduction in the number of initiatives submitted in December, and I expect the total funding sought to reduce also. I ask that you play your part in this focusing of Budget priorities and ensure the invited initiative in your portfolio represents strong value for money and is implementation ready.

Budget 2022 Invitations

I have considered the proposal outlined in your letter as Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment and invite *13753 – Investing in Social Cohesion* for consideration through Budget 2022.

Initiative submission templates and guidance were communicated to the Ministry of Social Development on 30 September 2021 and are available on CFISnet.

In addition, select initiatives in the Education, Employment and Training space are required to complete an additional gender analysis template when submitted, which includes the above invited initiative.

Please note that while I have invited this initiative to be submitted for consideration, this does not guarantee that it 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 2022 package considered by Cabinet. Therefore, I expect that all initiatives will be supported by a robust case for funding and a strong evidence base, as well as meaningful and realistic scaling and reprioritisation options.

I have asked Minister Little as the lead coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission Report into the Terrorist Attacks on the Christchurch Mosques to engage with relevant Ministers. This is to ensure that only initiatives that are the highest priority, represent strong value for money, and are implementation ready are submitted. I have also asked that initiatives are ranked, ensuring any interdependencies are appropriately signalled and identifying those that are less discretionary and higher priority.

Delivery of Budget 2022 Initiatives

While Minister Little has been asked to ensure that initiatives are implementation ready, I expect that the Ministry of Social Development will also ensure that this initiative is implementation ready.

The Treasury has advised me of potential delivery risks associated with this initiative, specifically that the initiative is underdeveloped. I understand that the initiative requires community engagement to inform what outputs the funding sought will purchase, and therefore, the Treasury views this initiative as not implementation ready. Ahead of submission, please ensure the Ministry of Social Development works closely with the Treasury to work on a plan to mitigate delivery risk where possible.

If delivery risks cannot be mitigated, I expect you to consider deferring this initiative to a future Budget, at which point I would expect this delivery risk to be addressed. If this initiative cannot be deferred, I expect you to outline a clear rationale at initiative submission in December 2021 for why funding is required through Budget 2022 despite these concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Robertson', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance