

# The Treasury

## Budget 2022 Information Release

August 2022

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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 Dr David Clark  
Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear David

## **Overview**

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. As will be obvious to you, that is far beyond the funding available and has required me to make early decisions to allow for an effective Budget process.

Even having done this, I still need your assistance to support the Budget process. In that light, I have had to carefully reduce the number of potential Budget 2022 initiatives through the invitation process, to reduce wasted effort and to 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 the number of initiatives submitted in December across all portfolios to be less than the number invited. Similarly, I expect total funding sought to be less than the indicative funding of invited initiatives. I ask that you play your part in this focusing of Budget priorities and only submit those invited initiatives in your portfolios that are the highest priority, represent strong value for money, and are implementation ready.

When initiatives are submitted in December, I expect these to be accompanied by a clear articulation of relative priorities. This may include a ranking of submitted initiatives within your portfolio, identifying those that are less discretionary and higher priority.

When prioritising, I expect you to focus on the implementation readiness of initiatives and delivery risk. I will only be supporting initiatives that are implementation ready, unless there is clearly articulated reasoning for why an exception to this rule should be considered.

## **Budget 2022 invitations**

With this in mind, I have considered the proposals that you outlined in your letter for your Commerce and Consumer Affairs portfolio, and the initiatives detailed below are invited for consideration through Budget 2022:

### *13847 – Delivering on our manifesto commitment to regulate retail payments systems*

[33]

The Treasury has also advised me that there are implementation risks arising from the short timeframes to pass related legislation, and from the need to find specialist staff for the Commerce Commission to implement the new regime.

### *13862 – Supporting the Financial Markets Authority’s expanding legislative mandate – conduct and insurance components*

I expect that the level of funding sought should be informed by the public consultation on the Financial Market Authority’s (FMA) funding, the progress of relevant legislation, and include scaling and phasing options to take into account when legislation comes into effect.

Treasury has also advised me that there is a delivery risk for the FMA in meeting its FTE needs to implement its expanding legislative mandate.

This initiative is exempt from full value-for-money analysis in the initiative submission template and will only be required to complete delivery aspects of the value-for-money analysis.

### *13868 – Resolving the Incorporated Societies Register funding gap*

I expect that Crown funding for the Incorporated Societies Register is time limited until a permanent solution for funding the Incorporated Societies Register is in place.

This initiative is exempt from full value-for-money analysis in the initiative submission template and will only be required to complete the delivery aspects of the value-for-money analysis.

### *13877 – Supporting the Financial Markets Authority’s expanding legislative mandate – climate change response component*

I am inviting this initiative as a cost pressure bid. As with the above initiative (13862) on supporting the FMA’s expanding legislative mandate, it is my strong expectation that the level of funding sought should be informed by the public consultation on the FMA’s funding, progress of relevant legislation, and include scaling and phasing options to take into account when legislation comes into effect. The Treasury has advised me that there is a delivery risk related to the FMA finding specialist staff to implement the incoming climate-related disclosures regime. [33]

This initiative is exempt from full value-for-money analysis and will only be required to complete delivery aspects of the value-for-money analysis.

## **Next steps**

Initiative submission templates and guidance were communicated to your department on 30 September and are available on CFISnet.

Ahead of initiative submission, please ensure your agency works closely with the Treasury to work on a plan to mitigate delivery risk where possible.

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

Please note that while I have invited these initiatives to be submitted for consideration, 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 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 realistic scaling and reprioritisation options.

The proposals that I have not invited you to submit as Budget 2022 initiatives may be addressed through future Budgets or other levers such as reprioritisation of baseline funding. As per the expectations that I have previously outlined, I will not support any out-of-cycle funding requests for these initiatives unless there is a compelling case for urgency.

I would also like to see greater prioritisation and coordination between Ministers of initiatives that will be administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). I expect you to work with Minister Nash and other MBIE Ministers to achieve this prior to submission.

I look forward to discussing options for funding initiatives through Budget 2023 at a later stage.

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**