

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 Andrew Little
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the SIS
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Andrew

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, 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 GCSB and SIS portfolios, and the initiatives detailed in Annex 1 are invited for consideration through Budget 2022.

There is a need for strong coordination of the Government's investment in cyber resilience initiatives. In place of Initiative 1 (13680), I ask that you, alongside the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications, lead the development of a cross-government "strengthening cyber resilience and capability" initiative, working with relevant Ministers, including Ministers Hipkins and Nash, to ensure a coordinated approach. The details of this proposal should be developed in conjunction with, and explained in full detail in, the related DPMC-led November Cabinet paper.

I have declined to invite Initiative 6 (13679). Funding for this proposal was sought and declined through Budget 2020. Further, as part of Budget 2021 the agencies were permitted to transfer efficiency savings to prevent new Budget funding being sought for cost pressures.

[1]

All Budget 2022 initiatives are expected to complete all value-for-money information and analysis requirements outlined in the initiative submission template, due 10 December.

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

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.

Next steps

The proposal that I have not invited you to submit as Budget 2022 initiative 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 this initiative unless there is a compelling case for urgency.

I wish to emphasise that the other information that you have provided will help to lay the groundwork for future Budgets and this information provides an important insight into the challenges and opportunities facing our Government this term.

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

Thank you for your ongoing work.

Yours sincerely



Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Annex 1: Budget 2022 Invitations

Title	Comment and/or condition
13680 Initiative 1 (GCSB)	To be addressed as part of a cross-government “strengthening cyber resilience and capability” initiative, led by yourself and the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications. This initiative should be supported by detailed costings and an implementation plan, to be provided in the DPMC-led Cabinet paper in November, including urgency, relative priority and alignment with Government priorities for each aspect of the initiative.
13675 Initiative 2 (SIS)	Invite. As the lead coordination Minister, I ask that you engage with relevant ministers to ensure that only initiatives that are the highest priority, represent strong value for money, and are implementation ready are submitted. Please also ensure that initiatives are ranked, ensuring any interdependencies are appropriately signalled and identifying those that are less discretionary and higher priority.
13677 Initiative 3 (GCSB)	Invite. As the lead coordination Minister, I ask that you engage with relevant ministers to ensure that only initiatives that are the highest priority, represent strong value for money, and are implementation ready are submitted. Please also ensure that initiatives are ranked, ensuring any interdependencies are appropriately signalled and identifying those that are less discretionary and higher priority.
13678 Initiative 4 (GCSB)	Invite subject to appropriate evidence, genuine scaling options and analysis about trade-offs for each scaled option, including implications for service delivery, being provided.
13675 Initiative 5 (SIS)	Invite subject to appropriate evidence, genuine scaling options and analysis about trade-offs for each scaled option, including implications for service delivery, being provided.