

# The Treasury

## Budget 2022 Information Release

August 2022

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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
- [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 Statistics  
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, 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 Statistics portfolio, and the initiatives detailed in Table 1 below are invited for consideration through Budget 2022.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Comment and/or condition</b>	<b>Delivery risk</b>
13787 – Providing sustainable, quality data for generations to come	I expect that the initiative template submitted in December will include a scaled option.	Without scaling, this initiative would represent a large investment compared to Stats NZ's baseline funding.  I expect that the initiative template submitted in December will provide confidence that Stats NZ is able to implement each of the initiative's components.
13789 – Delivering for and with iwi, hapū and Māori	N/A	N/A
[33]	N/A	N/A

All of your invited 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.

### **Delivery of Budget 2022 Initiatives**

The Treasury has advised me of potential early-stage delivery risk associated with one of the initiatives I have invited, the detail of which is included in Table 1 above.

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

**Next steps**

The proposal that I have not invited you to submit as a 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 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 above the typed name.

Hon Grant Robertson  
**Minister of Finance**