

# 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

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [1] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 6(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



22 October 2021

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan  
Minister for Youth  
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 proposals that you outlined in your letter for your Youth Development portfolio and invite *13935 – Strengthen and Safeguard Equitable Access to Developmental Services Which Build Young People’s Emotional Intelligence* for consideration through Budget 2022.

I note that this initiative has strong alignment with our commitment to work towards a more effective social service sector. I am interested to see how this initiative could be part of further demonstrating our commitment to work with social service providers and improve the wellbeing of New Zealanders.

Initiative submission templates and guidance were communicated to your agency on 30 September 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 realistic scaling and reprioritisation options.

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

The Treasury has advised me of a potential delivery risk associated with this initiative, specifically that it represents a significant increase in baseline funding. Ahead of submission, please ensure your agency works closely with the Treasury to work on a plan to mitigate the delivery risk where possible.

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

### ***Next steps***

I have not invited you to submit the initiative <sup>[33]</sup>

However, it 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.

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**