

The Treasury

Budget 2024 Information Release

September 2024

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- [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
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- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [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] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment

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From: Hamish Coghill [TSY]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 April 2024 11:02 am
To: ^Parliament: Hamish Dick; ^Parliament: Lachlan Stark; ^Parliament: Simon McLoughlin
Cc: Conor McBride [TSY]; Ephraim Wilson [TSY]; Chris Brunt [TSY]; Amanda Wilson [TSY]; Jinal Mehta [TSY]; Keiran Kennedy [TSY]; Jas Singh [TSY]; Tim Hampton [TSY]
Subject: Re: Vote Foreign Affairs Savings Package:

Just a quick follow up from me to say hold fire for the moment - just having another look at what we're suggesting should be the next steps.

Sorry for this.

Hamish

From: Hamish Coghill [TSY] <Hamish.Coghill@treasury.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 10:48 AM
To: ^Parliament: Hamish Dick <Hamish.Dick@parliament.govt.nz>; ^Parliament: Lachlan Stark <lachlan.stark@parliament.govt.nz>; ^Parliament: Simon McLoughlin <simon.mcloughlin@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Conor McBride [TSY] <Conor.McBride@treasury.govt.nz>; Ephraim Wilson [TSY] <Ephraim.Wilson@treasury.govt.nz>; Chris Brunt [TSY] <Chris.Brunt@treasury.govt.nz>; Amanda Wilson [TSY] <Amanda.Wilson@treasury.govt.nz>; Jinal Mehta [TSY] <Jinal.Mehta@treasury.govt.nz>; Keiran Kennedy [TSY] <Keiran.Kennedy@treasury.govt.nz>; Jas Singh [TSY] <Jas.Singh@treasury.govt.nz>; Tim Hampton [TSY] <Tim.Hampton@treasury.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Vote Foreign Affairs Savings Package:

Thanks Hamish

I do think the letter will need to be updated following BM4 to reflect MoF's decision to ask that the recently-created [37] and [38] This probably just requires an additional sentence or two.

Whether the letter should also be updated to reflect/accept the revised savings package proposed by MFAT/MFA's Office is really a matter for MoF to consider: there are some important differences from the original savings package proposed by MFA, chiefly among them that \$7.615 million of the total \$15 million is to come from non-departmental aid programme expenditure. Our original assumption was that none of the \$15 million would come from it (there is no mention of doing this in MFA's letter to the PM) and that the savings would be found primarily from MFAT's (and Antarctica New Zealand and other subsidiary organisations') departmental baselines.

[34]

Does this make sense? Happy to discuss further if that would be helpful.

Hamish

From: Hamish Dick <Hamish.Dick@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 9:26 AM
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Subject: RE: Vote Foreign Affairs Savings Package:

Thanks Hamish. The draft letter you provided was slightly revised by advisors, and was with MoF to sign over the weekend (see attached).

Does this letter need to change, or is it broad enough to still be correct? (I'm unsure whether it has been signed and sent yet – Lachy may know.)

Hamish

From: Hamish Coghill [TSY] <Hamish.Coghill@treasury.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 9:10 AM
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Subject: Vote Foreign Affairs Savings Package:

Hello secondees

This is just a heads up that the detail of the savings package for Vote Foreign Affairs that we provided advice on last week (including a draft letter for MoF to send to the Minister of Foreign Affairs) might be shifting.

See correspondence from MFAT's CFO on Thursday evening **attached**, which is different from what was set out in the Minister's letter to the Prime Minister and the discussion at the bilateral, but appears to have been agreed with his Office.

Can you please check with MoF and/or her advisors whether what the Minister of Foreign Affairs is proposing is acceptable to her? We recall MoF saying that she didn't think savings should come from aid programme expenditure, as the Minister is proposing here, but we were unclear whether MoF held that view personally or whether it was something she didn't think the Minister would find acceptable to put forward as a saving option. We have told MFAT that their Minister's Office should approach MoF's Office if the Minister wants to clarify what he wants to put forward for savings.

We will come back to you later today with an update to the draft letter from MoF to the Minister to reflect feedback from BM4 to look at options to reprofile the [37] and [38] so please let us know if we should also be updating the letter to respond to this updated savings package.

Very happy to discuss if that would be helpful.

Hamish



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