

# The Treasury

## Budget 2024 Information Release

### September 2024

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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
- [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

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 January 2024 4:02 pm

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**Subject:** Timing of fiscal strategy advice

[                    ]

Hello – following up on our convo re MoF's Office asking for fiscal strategy advice earlier than 22 Feb in order to get decisions to feed into the BPS. I think this is more on the fiscal rules and overall strategy as I've said to Laura that this would be too early for deciding allowances.

In our TR we've moved the fiscal strategy advice to the week early (15 Feb) and said exact timing TBC. This allows you a bit more time to think about whether you can cover this in your advice going up 8 Feb. We've then said next round of fiscal strategy advice is 7 March, which is the same time that BM2 material will go up to Budget Ministers (this meeting will cover the draft Budget package developed by the Treasury).

We're also going to put the highlighted wording in the allowance para that Luke drafted for us:

1. Following agency submissions of spending and savings initiatives and the Treasury assessment of these, the Budget process moves into the decision-making phase, which includes the Treasury providing you with the following advice:
  - a **Fiscal Strategy:** Under the Public Finance Act 1989, the Government is required to specify its fiscal strategy as short-term intentions and long-term objectives at each Budget Policy Statement and Fiscal Strategy Report [T2023/2179 refers]. We will provide further advice on these in early-mid February.
  - b **Allowances:** We will also provide advice on operating allowances for Budget 2024 and the multi-year capital allowance (MYCA) in early March to support decision making and trade-offs across your priorities. You have choices about when you decide the operating allowance for Budget 2024 and outyears and the multi-year capital allowance. You could decide these in time for announcing at the BPS. However, this would be before Budget Ministers make decisions on the Budget 2024 package. Instead, you may wish to wait and decide the final allowances as part of Budget 2024 decision-making process on spending and savings.
  - c **Budget package:** We will develop a draft Budget package based on our assessment of submitted initiatives. This will take into account the Government's fiscal and policy objectives, maintaining core public services, funding available and value for money considerations. Our advice will include a recommendation for each spending and savings initiative, including whether we propose supporting, not supporting, deferring,

or scaling. We will also provide advice on specific options for your personal income tax package. We will highlight key risks and trade-offs associated with our recommendations.

Cheers  
Emily



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*(I work a nine-day fortnight, with every second Friday off)*