

The Treasury

Budget 2024 Information Release

September 2024

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- The Treasury website from later in 2024 at: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/budget-2024-information-release>

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
- [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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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Budget 2024 Package: Vote Attorney-General

On 29 April 2024, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Crown Law Office

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2024 Budget package, as listed in the summary tables below and detailed in the attached initiative documents:

Summary of funded initiative:

Operating Initiative (Impact on Operating Balance)

| Initiative ID | Initiative Name | \$m - increase/(decrease) | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 & Outyears |
| 15403 | Workforce Reduction | - | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) |
| Total Operating | | - | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) |

Summary of contingency initiative:

Operating Contingency

| Initiative ID | Initiative Name | \$m - increase/(decrease) | | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 & Outyears |
| 16128 | Crown Prosecution Services - Funding Sustainability Tagged Contingency - Return of Funding | (4.184) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) |
| Total Operating | | (4.184) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) |

Note: Throughout the document, “total operating” refers to funding over five years (2023/24 to 2027/28) and “total capital” refers to funding over 10 years (2023/24 to 2032/33).

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Attorney-General

Appropriation Administrator: Crown Law Office

Title: Crown Prosecution Services - Funding Sustainability Tagged Contingency - Return of Funding

Description: This savings initiative returns \$37.656 million total operating funding previously held in tagged contingency for improving the sustainability of the Crown Solicitor network as well as the criminal appeals conducted by Crown Law. This funding is no longer required due to a change in government priorities.

Tagged Contingency

| | \$m – increase/(decrease) | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 & Outyears |
| Operating Contingency | (4.184) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) |
| Capital Contingency | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | (4.184) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) | (8.368) |

Additional Recommendation

2 **noted** that, following the adjustments detailed above, the tagged operating contingency described above is now exhausted and therefore closed.

Vote: Attorney-General

Appropriation Administrator: Crown Law Office

Title: Reduction in Workforce - Crown Law Office

Description: This savings initiative returns \$8.000 million total operating funding by scaling down Crown Law’s corporate and legal support, and system leadership functions, and stopping delivery of some services to the Government Legal Network. The funding reduction is achieved through reducing workforce and associated personnel costs, and expenditure on contractors and consultants.

Appropriation Changes

| | \$m - increase/(decrease) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 & Outyears |
| Operating Balance Impact* | - | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) |
| Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only | - | - | - | - | - |
| No Impact | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | - | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) |

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

| | \$m - increase/(decrease) | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 & Outyears |
| Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: | | | | | |
| Law Officer Functions (MCA) | | | | | |
| <i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i> | | | | | |
| Conduct of Criminal Appeals from Crown Prosecutions (funded by revenue Crown) | - | (0.200) | (0.200) | (0.200) | (0.200) |
| Law Officer Constitutional and Criminal Law Duties (funded by revenue Crown) | - | (0.200) | (0.200) | (0.200) | (0.200) |
| Public Prosecution Services (funded by revenue Crown) | - | (0.100) | (0.100) | (0.100) | (0.100) |
| Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation (funded by revenue Crown) | - | (1.000) | (1.000) | (1.000) | (1.000) |

| | \$m - increase/(decrease) | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 & Outyears |
| Strategic and Operational Legal Advice and Representation (funded by revenue Dept) | - | (0.500) | (0.500) | (0.500) | (0.500) |
| Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Law Officer Functions (MCA) | - | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) |
| Total Operating | - | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) | (2.000) |