

# The Treasury

## Budget 2024 Information Release

### September 2024

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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.*

### 2024 Budget Package: Vote Justice (Technical Initiatives)

On 29 April 2024, Cabinet:

#### Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Justice

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

#### Summary of technical initiatives:

##### Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
16108	Shared Approach to Back-office Transformation	-	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)
16109	Court and Coroner-related Cost Pressures – Fiscally-neutral Transfer from Community Harm Appropriation	(2.400)	-	-	-	-
16110	Court and Coroner-related Cost Pressures – Fiscally-neutral Transfer from Legal Aid Appropriation	(8.600)	-	-	-	-
16111	Legal Aid Cost Pressure – Transfer of Underspend	(21.400)	-	21.400	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>		<b>(32.400)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>21.390</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>

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).

[33]

[33]

## Community and Legal Assistance Scope

- 7 **noted** that Joint Ministers agreed to establish the *Community Justice Support and Assistance* non-departmental appropriation as a multi-category appropriation in Vote Courts from 1 July 2021;
- 8 **noted** that this appropriation was created to consolidate a number of smaller appropriations and enhance the flexibility in allocating funds based on evolving priorities, including the *Community Legal Assistance* category;
- 9 **noted** that it has become apparent that the scope of this category within the appropriation needs to be amended in order to allow funding for support programmes and agencies;
- 10 **agreed** to amend the scope previously approved as follows:

Existing Category Title	Existing Scope	Amended Scope
Community Legal Assistance	This category is limited to community-based legal advice, assistance and representation services.	This category is limited to community legal services-related programmes and organisations that deliver, or that support, community-based legal advice, assistance and representation.

- 11 **noted** that the above scope amendment will be effective 1 July 2024;

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Vote:** Justice

**Appropriation Administrator:** Ministry of Justice

**Title:** Shared Approach to Back-office Transformation

**Description:** This initiative funds a shared approach to back-office transformation. On 4 September 2023, Cabinet confirmed an approach to fund this system initiative through contributions from agency baselines [CAB-23-MIN-0417].

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Justice Policy Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>	<b>(0.010)</b>

### Additional Recommendation

12 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 15913 in Vote Internal Affairs;

**Vote:** Justice

**Appropriation Administrator:** Ministry of Justice

**Title:** Court and Coroner-related Cost Pressures – Fiscally-neutral Transfer from Community Harm Appropriation

**Description:** This initiative transfers funding from the Community Harm Reduction category of the Community Justice Support and Assistance multi-category appropriation in Vote Justice to the Court and Coroner Related Costs appropriation in Vote Courts to meet the pressures arising from Coroner-directed post-mortems and medical and professional services across courts.

**Appropriation Changes**

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(2.400)	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2.400)</b>	-	-	-	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:</b>					
Community Justice Support and Assistance (MCA)					
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Community Harm Reduction	(2.400)	-	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Community Justice Support and Assistance (MCA)	(2.400)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>(2.400)</b>	-	-	-	-

**Additional Recommendation**

13 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 15982 under Vote Courts;

**Vote:** Justice

**Appropriation Administrator:** Ministry of Justice

**Title:** Court and Coroner-related Cost Pressures – Fiscally-neutral Transfer from Legal Aid Appropriation

**Description:** This initiative transfers funding from the Legal Aid appropriation in Vote Justice to the Court and Coroner Related Costs appropriation in Vote Courts to meet the pressures arising from Coroner-directed post-mortems and medical and professional services across courts.

**Appropriation Changes**

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(8.600)	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(8.600)</b>	-	-	-	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Legal Aid	(8.600)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>(8.600)</b>	-	-	-	-

**Additional Recommendation**

14 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 15981 under Vote Courts.

**Vote:** Justice

**Appropriation Administrator:** Ministry of Justice

**Title:** Legal Aid Cost Pressure – Transfer of Underspend

**Description:** This initiative transfers underspends in 2023/24 to meet forecast funding pressures in 2025/26. An underspend in Legal Aid is forecasted due to lower demand for family and civil legal aid as a result of changes to eligibility thresholds in 2022 and constraints on capacity preventing the full utilisation of a previous transfer.

### Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(21.400)	-	21.400	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>(21.400)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21.400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & Outyears
<b>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</b>					
Legal Aid	(21.400)	-	21.400	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>(21.400)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21.400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>