

The Treasury

Budget 2024 Information Release

September 2024

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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
- [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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Hon Nicola Willis

Minister of Finance
Minister for the Public Service
Minister for Social Investment
Associate Minister of Climate Change



22 APR 2024

Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister for Digitising Government
Parliament Building

Dear Judith

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2024 regarding Budget 2024 decisions and additional savings for the Digitising Government portfolio.

I am writing to accept your request to remove the additional operating savings of \$0.885 million per annum relating to the Digitising Government portfolio from the Budget 2024 package. This will result in the operating savings for the Budget 2024 initiative *Baseline Savings: Alternative Funding Options and Efficiency Savings – Digitising Government* reverting to \$1.415 million per annum, as was originally submitted by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).

While I have accepted your request, the Treasury has highlighted that there have been consistent large underspends in the Digitising Government portfolio since 2019. I understand that the underspend in the *Government Digital Services* Multi Category Appropriation was \$3.048 million (6.3% of the appropriation) in 2021/22 and \$2.189 million (5.5% of the appropriation) in 2022/23, and that expenditure in 2023/24 is also tracking significantly under the appropriation.

[33]

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis', written over a blue horizontal line.

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance