

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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23 April 2024

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister of Justice
Parliament Buildings

Dear Paul

Budget 2024 decisions – Vote Justice and Vote Courts

Following our discussions over the past weeks, this letter confirms the decisions made as part of Budget 2024.

In relation to Initiative 15621 – ‘Ministry of Justice – Reducing legal aid funding within baseline appropriation’, the provision of legal aid is the subject of claims in Te Rau o te Tika, an active Waitangi Tribunal Inquiry into the justice system. The Treasury has advised me that this initiative relates to an area of historical underspends, hence limiting the impact on access to justice and court efficiency. That said, I would be grateful if you could please ensure that this initiative is implemented in a way that is consistent with the Crown’s Treaty obligations.

I would be grateful if you could direct your officials to work with the Treasury to complete the financial recommendations, as well as to prepare the necessary Estimates and Supplementary Estimates material for your sign off as soon as possible.

A reminder that these decisions remain Budget Sensitive and should only be shared on a need-to-know basis. My office will provide further advice on the approach to Budget communications. Thank you again for your support towards the successful delivery of Budget 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis'.

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

Cc Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence
Hon David Seymour, Associate Minister of Justice (Treaty Principles Bill)
Hon Nicole McKee, Minister for Courts and Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms)
Andrew Kibblewhite, Secretary for Justice – Ministry of Justice

Vote Justice (excluding the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence portfolio)

Budget 2024 Package as at 16 April

All operating values are in average per annum and capital values are total capital. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. Initiatives are listed under lead portfolio.

New Spending	Savings and Revenue
<p>Cost Pressures and Capital Cost Escalations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [38] <p>Government Policy Commitments Total Operating: \$3.0m, Total Capital: \$1.2m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID 15625: Ministry of Justice – Responding to gang harm <i>Operating: \$2.2m, Capital: \$0.2m</i> ID 15637: Ministry of Justice - Taking a tougher approach to sentencing <i>Operating: \$0.8m, Capital: \$0.9m</i> 	<p>Baseline Savings Total Operating: (\$39.0m), Total Capital: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID 15486: Human Rights Commission – operating cost reduction <i>Operating: (\$1.4m)</i> ID 15488: Reducing the Justice Sector Directorate operating budget <i>Operating: (\$1.0m)</i> ID 15498: End of the mana ōrite relationship as mutually agreed between the Justice Sector Leadership Board and Ināia Tonu Nei <i>Operating: (\$1.5m)</i> ID 15510: Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security - Operating cost reduction <i>Operating: (\$0.1m)</i> ID 15512: Operating cost reduction by reducing contracted services from Public Trust <i>Operating: (\$1.6m)</i> ID 15525: Operational policy adjustments to reduce legal aid operating expenditure <i>Operating: (\$0.8m)</i> ID 15558: Victims of Crime – Improving Outcomes Initiative – Return of funding <i>Operating: (\$6.2m)</i> ID 15572: Office of the Privacy Commissioner - Operating cost reduction <i>Operating: (\$0.5m)</i> ID 15613: Increased revenue from changes to the collection of court fines and legal aid debt <i>Operating: (\$10.8m)</i> ID 15621: Reducing legal aid funding within baseline appropriation <i>Operating: (\$4.7m)</i> ID 15657: Optimising back-office functions and expenditure to enable organisational sustainability <i>Operating: (\$10.0m)</i>

New Spending	Savings and Revenue
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="790 219 1412 331">ID 15702: Criminal Cases Review Commission – Operating Cost Reduction <i>Operating:</i> [33]
Total New Spending Initiatives Operating: ^{[38] and} _[33] Capital: \$1.2m	Total Savings and Revenue Initiatives Operating: ^[33] Capital: -
Net Total: Operating: ^[33] Capital: \$1.2m	

*Denotes no outyears funding (time-limited).

Vote Courts

Budget 2024 Package as at 12 April

All operating values are in average per annum and capital values are total capital. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. Initiatives are listed under lead portfolio.

New Spending	Savings and Revenue
<p>Cost Pressures and Capital Cost Escalations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil <p>Government Policy Commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil <p>Capital Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [38] 	<p>Baseline Savings</p> <p>Total Operating: (\$7.6m), Total Capital: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID 15642: Returning Funding for Lifting Cultural Capability <i>Operating: (\$1.2m)</i> • ID 15708: Court and Coronial Services – Returning Funding for Initiatives with Low Demand <i>Operating: (\$0.9m)</i> • ID 15712: Courts and Tribunals Fees - Increased Revenue <i>Operating: (\$5.6m)</i>
<p>Total New Spending Initiatives</p> <p>Operating: [38] Capital: [38]</p>	<p>Total Savings and Revenue Initiatives</p> <p>Operating: (\$7.6m), Capital: -</p>
<p>Net total: Operating: [38] Capital: \$ [38]</p>	

*Denotes no outyears funding (time-limited).