

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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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
- [2] 6(b)(i) - to avoid prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- [4] 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [7] 6(e)(ii) - to prevent serious damage to the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the regulation of banking or credit
- [12] 7(a)(i) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of the Cook Islands
- [13] 7(a)(ii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of Niue
- [14] 7(a)(iii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of Tokelau
- [15] 7(a)(iv) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the Ross Dependency
- [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
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - 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 to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [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
- [41] 18(d) - information requested is or will soon be publicly available

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 2026 Package: Vote Building and Construction (Technical Initiatives)

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2026 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)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17492	Transfer of Residual MIQ Debt Collection Funding to the Economic Development Growth Portfolio	(0.015)	-	-	-	-
17495	Building Regulatory System	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating		(0.015)	-	-	-	-

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Building and Construction

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Title: Transfer of Residual MIQ Debt Collection Funding to the Economic Development Growth Portfolio

Description: This initiative transfers funding for residual invoice and debt-related costs from Vote Building and Construction to Vote Business, Science and Innovation. This initiative also seeks an in-principle expense transfer for any remaining funding in 2025/26, up to \$0.176 million.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(0.015)	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(0.015)	-	-	-	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Isolation and Quarantine Management MCA	(0.015)	-	-	-	-
Non-departmental Other Expense: Residual Invoice and Debt-related Costs					
Total Operating	(0.015)	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- authorised** the Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Chris Bishop), Minister for Economic Growth, and the Minister of Health jointly to agree to transfer up to \$0.176 million from the *Isolation and Quarantine Management MCA - Residual Invoice and Debt related Costs* category in 2025/26 in Vote Building and Construction to the *Economic Growth: Debt Collection and Associated Costs* appropriation in 2026/27 in Vote Business, Science and Innovation following completion of the 2025/26 audited financial statements of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt across the forecast period;
- noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17493 in Vote Business, Science and Innovation;

Vote: Building and Construction

Appropriation Administrator: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Title: Building Regulatory System

Description: This initiative renames the *Building Regulation and Control MCA* to *Building Regulatory System MCA*, updates it to include *Occupational Licensing* as a new category, and integrates the *Executive Functions and Building System Support* category into *Occupational Licensing*.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Occupational Licensing (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.741)	(0.741)	(0.741)	(0.741)
Occupational Licensing (funded by revenue Other)	-	(12.181)	(12.319)	(12.319)	(12.319)
Occupational Licensing	-	(0.422)	(0.422)	(0.422)	(0.422)
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Building Regulatory System (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Executive Functions and Building System Support (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.037)	(0.037)	(0.037)	(0.037)
Occupational Licensing (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.778	0.778	0.778	0.778
Occupational Licensing (funded by revenue Other)	-	12.603	12.741	12.741	12.741
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Building Regulatory System (MCA)	-	13.344	13.482	13.482	13.482
Total Operating	-	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 4 **agreed** to change the title of the *Building Policy, Regulation and Advice* Multi-Category Appropriation to *Building Regulatory System* Multi-Category Appropriation from 1 July 2026;
- 5 **agreed** to add the following category to the Multi-Category Appropriation *Building Regulatory System* from 1 July 2026:

Title	Type	Scope
Occupational Licensing	Departmental Output Expenses	This category is limited to the development, implementation and maintenance of the registration and licensing regimes for building practitioners and electrical workers, and to support the effective performance of statutory bodies under legislation assigned to the appropriation Minister (other than the Building Act 2004).