

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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Date: 20 May 2026

To: Minister of Finance (Hon Nicola Willis)

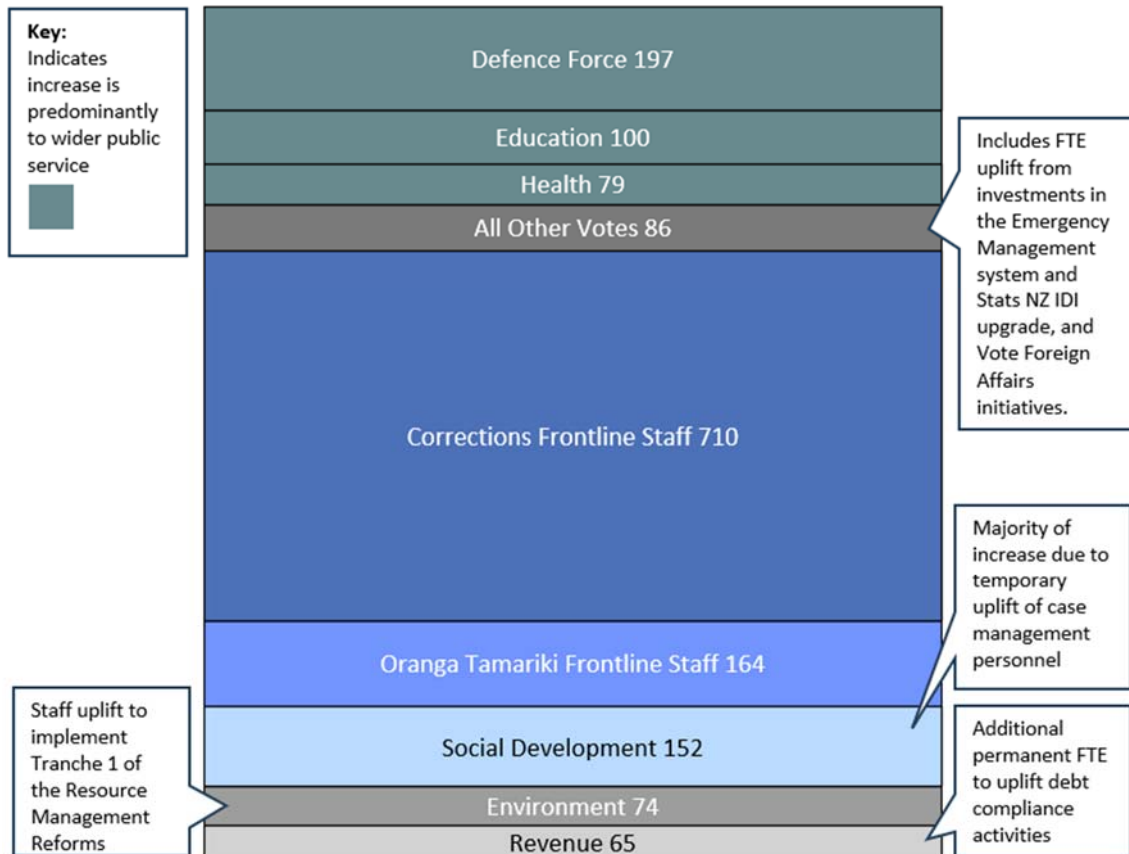
Deadline: None
(if any)

Aide Memoire: Final FTE impacts of Budget 2026 package

1. This note provides you with an update on the workforce impacts of the Budget 2026 package.
2. The Budget is only one part of the picture, and does not reflect changes to FTE numbers resulting from other factors like agencies managing cost pressures within their baselines, which are likely to significantly offset any increases in FTE generated by the Budget process.
3. Initiatives within the Budget 2026 package are expected to result in a net average increase of around 1,300 personnel in the public service, and a net increase of around 350 in the wider public sector (e.g. crown entities and SOEs), per annum. These are broadly consistent with workforce figures shared with you earlier in the Budget process.
4. The core drivers of the increase in workforce are:
 - **Frontline corrections officers, support workers and psychologists** to address volume pressures at Corrections and Oranga Tamariki, which account for 2/3 of the public service workforce change.
 - **Personnel uplifts to deliver major Government priorities**, including Tranche 2 of the Defence Capability Plan and Resource Management Reform.
 - **Delivering invest-to-save initiatives** at the Ministry of Social Development and Inland Revenue through a temporary uplift in case managers and inspectors.

5. These numbers are based on submissions by agencies. There is some uncertainty around the final workforce implications for Vote Foreign Affairs initiatives due to late changes to that package, but the impacts will not be significant.
6. Figures on new FTE generated by Budget initiatives have been incorporated into FTE targets communicated to agencies this week.

Table One: Net FTE impact of Budget 2026 initiatives (annual average over forecast period)



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