

Date: 1 February 2010

To: Minister of Finance

## **AIDE MEMOIRE: CRI TASKFORCE DRAFT REPORT**

The CRI Taskforce has come to the end of its deliberations and is in the process of writing its report. You should receive a draft report from the CRI Taskforce today for consultation before the report is finalised.

### **Taskforce Recommendations**

A summary of the main recommendations is attached as an Annex. Most are consistent with the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor's views. You may be particularly interested in recommendations on:

#### ***Machinery of government***

The Taskforce recommends that one agency be responsible for science policy, long term funding, contestable funding, infrastructure funding, CRI ownership monitoring. COMU would provide financial and board appointment expertise.

We agree it makes sense to combine science policy, long term funding (as we consider that long term funding can be considered "equity-like" with strong links to ownership matters), and non-financial monitoring. This would reduce fragmentation in science policy which is a recognised problem. But we think that contestable funding should stay in a separate agency. This would ensure the contestable funding body stayed independent from CRIs providing a more level playing field across public and private research organisations.

The science policy, funding and ownership agency would have some new responsibilities, which we would see being funded by savings from the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology, which would have a reduced workload.

The State Services Commission will take the Taskforce recommendations into account in its upcoming machinery of government Cabinet paper.

***[Remainder of pg 1 & pg 2 not relevant to release]***

**Kirsty Flannagan**, Team Leader, Economic Performance Overview & Coordination, Dynamic Economy, ***[Withheld – privacy]***

**Struan Little**, Deputy Secretary Dynamic Economy, ***[Withheld – privacy]***

## ANNEX: CRI TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

	Taskforce (probable) recommendation	Treasury view
<i>[Not relevant to release]</i>		
Sector governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combine into one entity science policy, long term funding, contestable funding, infrastructure funding, CRI ownership monitoring. COMU to provide financial and board appointment expertise</li> </ul>	<p>Agree that it would make sense to combine science policy, long term funding (as we consider that long term funding can be considered “equity-like” with strong links to ownership matters), and non-financial monitoring. This would reduce fragmentation in science policy which is a recognised problem.</p> <p>Agree COMU should provide financial and board appointment expertise as the combined science entity will find it hard to get this expertise itself</p> <p>Prefer contestable funding remain in a separate agency, possibly including Health Research Council funding and PGP. This would ensure the contestable funding body stayed independent from CRIs providing a more level playing field across public and private research organisations.</p> <p>Machinery of government options will be considered as part of SSC MoG process.</p>
<i>[Remainder of document not relevant to release]</i>		