

The Treasury

Budget 2011 Information Release

Release Document

June 2011

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- [1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [2] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [3] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [4] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [5] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [6] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [7] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [8] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [9] 6(c) - to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [10] 9(2)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [11] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, an [8] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(h).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Hon Christopher Finlayson
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Christopher

On 1 December you forwarded to me the Four-year Budget Plans prepared by the agencies below as part of the preparation for Budget 2011:

- Ministry for Culture and Heritage (Vote Arts, Culture and Heritage);
- Crown Law Office (Vote Attorney-General);
- Ministry of Justice (Vote Treaty Negotiations); and
- Parliamentary Counsel Office (Vote Parliamentary Counsel).

Budget Ministers met to discuss the Four-year Budget Plans on Wednesday 15 December. At that meeting we agreed that the Plans submitted for Vote Arts, Culture and Heritage, Vote Treaty Negotiations, and Vote Parliamentary Counsel should be accepted as submitted.

With regard to Vote Attorney-General, we agreed to invite all Justice sector Ministers to resubmit their Four-Year Budget Plans to me by Thursday 10 February 2011. These Plans should map out a strategy for how the Justice sector will be able to manage within baselines over the forecast period. The Vote Attorney-General resubmission should also show how the requested capital injection will be funded within the Justice sector allocation.

Your departments should submit financial recommendations in March to give effect to any agreed changes in appropriations. Following that, estimates documents will be due in April. Treasury will publish further Budget guidance, including the timetable, shortly.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance