

# 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 Simon Power  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Simon

I am writing to communicate my decisions on the final package for Budget 2011.

In early February you forwarded to me the resubmitted Four-year Budget Plan prepared by the Ministry of Justice for Vote Justice as part of the preparation for Budget 2011.

As Budget Ministers, we have met a number of times in the last few weeks to discuss specific proposals, how they fit in the overall Budget package and how we will meet the costs of the Canterbury earthquake.

Following those discussions, we have decided that the resubmitted Four-year Budget Plan for Vote Justice should be accepted. Nevertheless, you will be aware that the Treasury has concerns that current policy settings mean that Legal Aid demand will exceed available funding from 2012/13 onwards. [2]

As with the previous review of Legal Aid, unless Cabinet makes decisions which address the fiscal pressures facing Legal Aid prior to the consideration of the Budget 2011 Cabinet paper, the matter may constitute a specific fiscal risk under the Public Finance Act 1989 and may need to be disclosed in the 2011 Budget Economic and Fiscal Update (BEFU).

Your department should complete financial recommendations as soon as possible to give effect to any agreed changes to appropriations. I intend to take the final Budget package to Cabinet at the start of April. Following that, estimates documents will be due in April.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill English  
**Minister of Finance**