

Reference: 20170374

5 February 2018



Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 17 November 2017.
You requested the following:

“Under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982, I request a copy of all advice prepared since 19 October 2017 on the fiscal cost of the following policies:

- Increasing KiwiBank’s capital base.*
- Annual Free Health Check for Seniors.*
- Free doctors’ visits for all under 14s.*
- The Defence procurement programme.*
- Adding 1800 new Police officers.*
- New generation SuperGold smartcard.*
- Department of Conservation funding.*
- Increased funding for 100% qualified teachers early childhood education centres.*
- ‘Ready to Work’ programme.*
- KiwiBuild and the Affordable Housing Authority.*

Please take “all advice” to include Treasury briefings to ministers, formal Treasury comments to be included in other departments’ briefings or papers, Cabinet papers, and emails to other government departments or ministers’ offices.”

I subsequently extended the deadline for responding to your request by 20 working days.

Information Being Released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	14 November 2017	Aide Memoire: Updated Budget 2018 & Fiscal Strategy Paper	Release in part

We propose to release the relevant parts only of the above document. The remainder of the document is not relevant to your request. This is because the document includes matters outside your specific request.

Information Publicly Available

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on agencies' websites:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	October 2017	Joint Briefing to Incoming Minister - Housing	http://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/who-we-are/our-publications/briefings-to-incoming-ministers/2017-bims/building-construction-supplementary-2.pdf
2.	October 2017	Briefing to Incoming Minister - Finance	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/briefings/2017/bim-tsy-finance-oct17.pdf
3.	October 2017	Briefing to the Incoming Minister - Housing (MSD)	https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/bims/2017/housing-bim-2017.pdf
4.	14 December 2017	HYEFU Basics	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/budget/forecasts/hyefubasics/hyefu-basics-dec17.pdf

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

Information to be Withheld

There are additional documents covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under the following section of the Official Information Act:

- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Item	Date	Document Description	Proposed Action
1.	13 November 2017	Primary Care Advice	Withhold in full
2.	8 November 2017	Vote Health's Fiscal Position	Withhold in full

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed document may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

John Marney
Team Leader, Budget & Financial Design

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2. **Strive towards adding 1800 new Police officers over three years and commit to a serious focus on combatting organised crime and drugs:** Labour's Fiscal Plan included \$40 million per annum, rising to \$43 million to recruit 1,000 additional officers. The coalition agreement of striving toward 1800 we understand includes the increase of 880 agreed to by the previous Government.

For comparison, that decision to increase numbers by 880 sworn officers and 245 non-sworn will cost:

Vote	Vote Police	Vote Justice	Vote Corrections
(\$ million per annum)	\$139.491	\$24.000 million	\$31.700 million

The cost of a further increase would depend on a number of variables, particularly the ratio of sworn to non-sworn officers, but this provides a rough guide.

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Lachlan Whelan, Senior Analyst, Fiscal and State Sector Management, s9(2)(k)
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 Management, s9(2)(k)