

14 May 2009

Hon
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear

PROACTIVE RELEASE OF BUDGET 2009 DOCUMENTS

I am writing to inform you that I have decided to proactively release all Budget 2009 related documents on the Treasury website on Thursday 18 June, three weeks after Budget day.

Treasury has been proactively releasing Budget-related documents on its website for the last three years. This has considerably reduced the number of Official Information Act (OIA) requests over that period, which consequently reduces the amount of time Ministers' Offices have to spend on answering requests. Given the resource and time benefits of proactively releasing these documents, I have agreed to continue with this practice.

Treasury Vote teams will process all the documents I have agreed to release to remove any information that would normally be withheld under the OIA. Deleted information generally covers issues of commercial sensitivity, free and frank advice and issues under active consideration. The 'release versions' of the Budget documents are then forwarded to Ministers' Offices to ensure you are satisfied with the material. Once you and your Office have considered the release documents prepared by the Treasury, please confirm with my Office that they are ready to be released.

The final date for confirmation of the release documents is 1.00pm, Tuesday 16 June 2009.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance