

The Treasury

Budget 2017 Information Release

Release Document July 2017

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[1]	to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government	6(a)
[4]	to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial	6(c)
[11]	to damage seriously the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the entering into of overseas trade agreements.	6(e)(vi)
[23]	to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people	9(2)(a)
[25]	to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information	9(2)(b)(ii)
[26]	to prevent prejudice to the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	9(2)(ba)(i)
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[29]	to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand	9(2)(d)
[31]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility	9(2)(f)(ii)
[33]	to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials	9(2)(f)(iv)
[34]	to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions	9(2)(g)(i)
[36]	to maintain legal professional privilege	9(2)(h)
[37]	to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantages or prejudice	9(2)(i)
[38]	to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice	9(2)(j)
[39]	to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	9(2)(k)
[40]	Not in scope	

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) and section 18 of the Official Information Act.

Reference: T2017/753 DH-44

Date: 23 March 2017

To: Minister of Finance (Steven Joyce)

Deadline: None

Further advice on Iwi/Community Panels

Following your bilateral discussion with Minister Bennett, you have asked for advice on the Vote Police Track 1 initiative, 'Iwi/Community Panels'. Specifically, you asked for Treasury's view on restricting the scope of the panels to the at-risk group (young Māori) for which evaluation has suggested they are most effective.

It is not possible to provide accurate costings for a reduced scope pilot before discussing the revised pilot design with Police, but we estimate this reduced scope approach would cost:

[33]

While we do not have the details of how a reduced scope pilot would operate, it is not likely that a change that focused on young Māori would bring the Iwi/Community Panels initiative above the Track 1 assessment threshold. This is because Treasury does not consider that Police's evaluation report on the existing panels provides robust evidence of effectiveness (or ineffectiveness):

- the finding that the Panels increase offending for older Maori is counter-intuitive and may suggest the report findings need to be treated with caution until additional analysis is undertaken
- we need to investigate further to be convinced the statistical analysis is being correctly interpreted, and
- the report is preliminary and has not yet been through peer review - it notes the need for further in-depth analysis, which has yet to be undertaken.

Because the effectiveness of the panels is unclear at this stage, we would not recommend restricting the scope of the extended pilot to young Māori based on the existing evaluation.

If Ministers intend to fund further iwi panels, we recommend this only be at the existing locations, with a focus on establishing the effectiveness of the panels, and on a time-limited basis to enable Ministers to reconsider this initiative based on a new evaluation of panel effectiveness.

[33]

We consider an extension to the existing pilot, maintaining the current referral eligibility, would:

- allow a more thorough and conclusive evaluation of the effectiveness of iwi panels, and
- test the impact of new 'discretionary funding' per panel attendee to fund targeted assistance (e.g. mental health services and drivers licensing), which may improve effectiveness for older and non-Māori attendees.

We estimate this approach would cost:

[33]

If Ministers wanted to progress this initiative, we suggest it is funded as part of Track 2 to preserve the integrity of the Track 1 process.

[34]

Colin Hall, Manager, Justice Security and Government Services, ^[39]