

The Treasury

Budget 2012 Information Release

Release Document

June 2012

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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] 6(a) - to prevent prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 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
- [3] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [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)(d) - to avoid prejudice to the substantial economic interests of New Zealand
- [6] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [7] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [8] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [9] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [10] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [11] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [12] 9(2)(ba)(i) - 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.

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 [4] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(b)(ii).

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

Hon Maurice Williamson
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

Thank you for your Four Year Budget Plan and recent March Baseline Update submissions for Vote Customs and Vote Statistics.

Four Year Budget Plan – Vote Customs

I consider that the Four Year Budget Plan submitted by New Zealand Customs Service covering Vote Customs is of sufficient quality that it will not be necessary for another Budget Plan to be submitted until Budget 2015, unless you propose to seek additional funding for Tranche 2 of the Joint Border Management System as part of Budget 2013.

Four Year Budget Plan – Vote Statistics

The Four Year Budget Plan prepared by Statistics New Zealand covering Vote Statistics is of sufficient quality for Budget 2012. However, due to uncertainty over how the agency will absorb cost pressures over the next four years, it will be necessary to submit another Four Year Budget Plan for Budget 2013.

Budget initiatives

Budget Ministers have considered the following Vote Statistics Budget initiatives and the following initiatives are supported in full:

- Cost pressures as detailed in the Four Year Budget Plan 2012 (7270)
- Amounts reprioritised as detailed in the Four Year Budget Plan 2012 (7271)
- Tomorrow's Population and Social Statistics Business Case (7272)

Final Budget decisions

Final decisions on Budget initiatives, as well as possible expenditure savings, will be made by Cabinet on 23 April 2012. Please note also that acceptance of all Four Year Budget Plans is subject to the Government making satisfactory progress towards its priority of returning to surplus by 2014/15. If economic circumstances put the surplus

target at risk, Cabinet may need to reconsider its fiscal track and some or all Budget Plans.

March Baseline Update

I have examined your submission and approve all your updated baselines for Vote Customs and Vote Statistics.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill English". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and the last name "English" clearly distinguishable.

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance