

The Treasury

Budget 2012 Information Release

Release Document

June 2012

www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/informationreleases/budget/2012

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 Hekia Parata
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

Thank you for your Four-year Budget Plans and recent March Baseline Update submission covering Votes Education and Education Review Office.

Four-year Budget Plans

I consider that the Four Year Budget Plan covering Vote Education Review Office is of sufficient quality that it will not be necessary for another Budget Plan to be submitted until Budget 2015, unless circumstances change significantly, or you determine another Four Year Budget Plan should be submitted.

I understand that you are re-drafting elements of the Vote Education Four-year Budget Plan following our bilateral meeting on 5 March 2012. Budget Ministers will consider this revised plan at their meeting on 28 March. Due to the nature and complexity of the Vote, I expect another Four Year Budget Plan will need to be submitted in advance of Budget 2013. The Four Year Budget Plan for 2013 could be enhanced by the following improvements:

- [6]
- as discussed at our bilateral meeting on 5 March 2012, a stronger articulation of how Budget decisions provide an aligned package focused on improving student achievement.

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 your updated baselines for Votes Education and Education Review Office.

I note that in your Vote Education letter:

- In the section “Cabinet Decisions” (paragraph 6), CAB Min (11) 41/9 does not refer to the Cabinet confirmation of the “Capital Charge Rules for Statutory Crown Entities”. The correct Cabinet Minute reference is CAB Min (11) 16/6.
- The Fiscally Neutral Adjustment “Adjustments to Art Coordinators” Cabinet minute (CAB Min (08) 34/4) confirming the original decision is incorrect. The correct Cabinet Minute reference is CAB Min (08) 34/5.

[6]

All other aspects of your baseline update are agreed.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance