

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.



THE TREASURY

Kaitohutohu Kaupapa Rawa

Date: 3 April 2012

To: Minister of Finance

Aide Memoire: Vote Housing in Budget 2012 & Funding of Asset Transfers

You met with Minister Heatley on 29 March to discuss the Vote Housing Four Year Budget Plan. [6]

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7. What is the requested change in policy appropriations?

- The requested increase in policy advice appropriations of \$12.5 million from 2011/12 – 2015/16 represents an increase of more than 40 percent on DBH's current policy advice baseline. No justification for such an increase has been provided, and it does not seem to be consistent with wider government policy.
- The Treasury recommends funding only the 2011/12 request for policy advice funding in Budget 2012 and including the request for outyear funding as part of the due diligence process for MBIE (which is charged with sorting all financial matters by 1 July 2011). This will deliver \$11.4 million of savings from Vote Housing

(including the Weathertight underspend), and help close the remaining gap to ensure a “net zero” package for Budget 2012.

- If you do not wish to take savings from Vote Housing, then it may be preferable to put the additional \$11.4 million into growing third party provision (i.e. increase the Social Housing Fund to \$111.4 million).

Paul O’Connell, Team Leader, Health and Housing, [3]

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