

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 Dr Jonathan Coleman
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

Thank you for forwarding me the Four Year Budget Plan for the State Services Commission and also for your recent March Baseline Update submission covering Vote State Services.

Four Year Budget Plan

I consider that the Four Year Budget Plan prepared by the State Services Commission and covering Vote State Services is acceptable. I acknowledge that the Plan was submitted prior to the Government's response to the Better Public Services report, which is likely to have implications for the Commission's future strategic directions. It would therefore be appropriate for a revised Four Year Budget Plan addressing these factors to be submitted in advance of Budget 2013.

Budget initiatives

I note that there were no Budget initiatives relating to Vote State Services included in the Four Year Budget Plan.

Final Budget decisions

Final decisions on the Budget 2012 package (including initiatives and possible expenditure savings) will be taken by Cabinet on 23 April 2012. Please note also that acceptance of any or all Four Year Budget Plans is subject to the Government making satisfactory progress towards its priority of returning to surplus by 2014/15. Any changes to economic circumstances that put this surplus target at risk may cause Cabinet to reconsider its fiscal track and some or all Plans.

March Baseline Update

I have examined your submission and approve your updated baselines for Vote State Services, including minor re-allocations of overheads between departmental output expenses which have been identified as needing to be made (and are supported) by officials in both our agencies since the date of your submission, and which are now reflected in an updated Table 2 in Treasury's CFISnet system.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance