

The Treasury

Budget 2017 Information Release

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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]	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)
[27]	to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information - would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest	9(2)(ba)(ii)
[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: T2016/1652

SH-15-1



Date: 28 September 2016

To: Minister of Finance
(Hon Bill English)

Deadline: None

Aide Memoire: Preserving the Nation's Memory

Background

You have recently received a briefing from Minister Dunne which seeks your agreement to progress, based on two preferred options, to a single stage business case for increased storage of Archives documents. We advised the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to put up a Joint Ministers' briefing instead of an indicative business case.

If Ministers agree to this, DIA will present the strategic case of the single stage business case to the November Investment Panel, with the other cases presented at the February Investment Panel.

We agree this problem needs to be addressed. Funding for the investment will be sought through Budget 2017.

The Investment

Under the Public Records Act 2005, public records which have been in existence for 25 years must be transferred to Archives New Zealand. [38]

The Chief Archivist has already reduced the rate of transfer of these documents causing a greater backlog of documents. This backlog is currently being housed across various public offices, creating financial and statutory risks.

Options other than building/leasing new repositories have been explored but do not deal with the core problem of the backlog of documents already created. Digitisation has been explored but essentially does not replace the need to store physical copies of documents and has limited capacity to reduce future demand. Statutory flexibilities have already been used (i.e. reducing the rate of transfer of documents) and any potential changes to statutory requirements are unlikely to deal with the problem of the backlog of documents.

The figures in the briefing are economic valuations. The likely fiscal cost to the Crown will be in the range of [38]

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