

Reference: 20190506



22 August 2019

s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 26 July 2019. Your request was:

"Please provide any correspondence with or documents provided to Government ministers or their offices during this term relating to a potential firearms register".

Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	17 May 2019	Ministerial consultation: Strengthening the framework for the safe use and control of firearms	Release in part
2.	7 June 2019	Treasury report: Briefing for Social Wellbeing Committee Meeting Wednesday, 12 June 2019	Release in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- names and contact details of junior officials, under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials, and
- direct dial phone numbers of officials, under section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or improper advantage.

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<https://treasury.govt.nz>

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Colin Hall
Manager, Justice, Security and Government Services

TOIA 20190506

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Ministerial Consultation: Strengthening the framework for the safe use and control of firearms

Title of paper	Strengthening the framework for the safe use and control of firearms
Minister and agency	Minister for Police / New Zealand Police
Description	This paper seeks agreement to a suite of proposals to strengthen the framework for the safe use and control of firearms, set out in the Arms Act 1983 (the Act).
Comments	<p>The paper contains five main sets of proposals including the establishment of an online firearms registration platform, new licensing requirements, a revised fee structure to recover the cost of firearms licensing, increased penalties for firearms offences, and expanded compliance and enforcement powers.</p> <p>A cross-agency Quality Assurance Panel is currently reviewing the Regulatory Impact Assessment and Cost Recovery Impact Statement informing these proposals. While the panel is still exchanging feedback with the Police, the quality assurance criteria are most likely to be met.</p> <p>The Financial Implications section of the paper needs to be clearer about the direct costs of the proposals and how these costs will be met. We have asked Police to provide more detailed information and to clearly identify any requirements for new funding.</p> <p>We have not received sufficient information to assess the accuracy of the cost estimates or the feasibility of the proposal to recover licensing costs through a revised fee structure.</p> <p>The proposed changes to licensing and enforcement are also likely to have flow-on implications for the wider justice sector. The paper should identify flow-on costs for Courts and Corrections and should indicate the potential impact of the proposals on the prison population.</p>
Fiscal implications	One-off implementation costs are estimated at up to \$12 million. The paper notes annual operating costs of up to \$10 million or \$20 million, depending on the extent of cost recovery. The paper does not seek new funding, but there are likely to be future funding implications.
Recommended action	<p>Ask for the paper to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorporate clearer information on costs and identify any likely new funding requirements, and assess the flow-on implications for the wider justice system, including the potential impact on the prison population.
Treasury Contact	<p>s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted], Graduate Analyst, Justice, Security & Government Services, s9(2)(k) [redacted]</p> <p>Colin Hall, Manager, Justice, Security and Government Services, s9(2)(k) [redacted]</p>

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TE TAI ŌHANGA
THE TREASURY
Treasury Report: Briefing for Social Wellbeing Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 12 June 2019

Date:	Friday 7 June 2019	Report No:	T2019/1660
		File Number:	MS-5-3-SWC

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Finance (Hon Grant Robertson)	Read prior to Cabinet Social Wellbeing committee meeting	09:30 AM, Wednesday 12 June 2019
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr David Clark)	Read prior to Cabinet Social Wellbeing committee meeting	09:30 AM, Wednesday 12 June 2019
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon David Parker)	Read prior to Cabinet Social Wellbeing committee meeting	09:30 AM, Wednesday 12 June 2019
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Shane Jones)	Read prior to Cabinet Social Wellbeing committee meeting	09:30 AM, Wednesday 12 June 2019
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon James Shaw)	Read prior to Cabinet Social Wellbeing committee meeting	09:30 AM, Wednesday 12 June 2019

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
s9(2)(g)(i)	Graduate Analyst, Education and Population Agencies	s9(2)(k)	No (mob) ✓
Andrew Rutledge	Manager, Education and Population Agencies		N/A (mob)

Actions for the Minister's Office Staff (if required)

Return the signed report to Treasury.

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

Enclosure: **No**

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Comments	Fiscal implications	Treasury Recommendation
s9(2)(f)(iv)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$9.000 - \$10.900 million per annum from 2027/28 onwards. 	
<p>A cross-agency panel has reviewed two previous iterations of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), but has not had the opportunity to quality assure the current version which has a number of significant changes. The panel will provide a quality assurance statement ahead of the SWC meeting.</p> <p>The review panel has also reviewed the Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) Proposal to amend the fee setting provision in the Arms Act 1983. The panel considers that it meets the Quality Assurance criteria, but notes a stage 2 CRIS will need to be completed when approval is sought for specific proposals for cost recovery fees.</p>	<p>s9(2)(f)(iv)</p> <p>The Minister of Police will report back to Cabinet at the end of the year with refined costings and options for cost recovery.</p> <p>s9(2)(f)(iv)</p> <p>The paper also notes there may be flow-on costs for other Justice sector agencies, but these have not been quantified.</p>	
<p>Deleted - Not Relevant to Request</p>		

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Deleted - Not Relevant to Request

Recommended Action

We recommend that you **read** this report prior to the Social Wellbeing Committee meeting at 09:30am on Wednesday 12 June 2019.

Andrew Rutledge
Manager, Education and Population Agencies

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT