

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

<b>Title of paper</b>	<b>Strengthening the framework for the safe use and control of firearms</b>
<b>Minister and agency</b>	<b>Minister for Police / New Zealand Police</b>
<b>Description</b>	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).
<b>Comments</b>	<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 <b>Regulatory Impact Assessment</b> 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 <b>Financial Implications</b> 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>
<b>Fiscal implications</b>	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.
<b>Recommended action</b>	<p>Ask for the paper to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>incorporate clearer information on costs and identify any likely new funding requirements, and</li> <li>assess the flow-on implications for the wider justice system, including the potential impact on the prison population.</li> </ul>
<b>Treasury Contact</b>	<p>s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted], Graduate Analyst, Justice, Security &amp; Government Services, s9(2)(k) [redacted]</p> <p>Colin Hall, Manager, Justice, Security and Government Services, s9(2)(k) [redacted]</p>

## IN-CONFIDENCE

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

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

**Action Sought**

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

**Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1st Contact</b>
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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**Treasury Report: Briefing for Social Wellbeing Committee Meeting 12  
Wednesday, June 2019**

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**Executive Summary**

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The Treasury is aware of four items on the Social Wellbeing Committee agenda for Wednesday 12 June 2019. The table below provides Treasury comments and recommendations on three of these items. There is also one item on the agenda for which we have no briefing.

Comments	Fiscal implications	Treasury Recommendation
Deleted - Not Relevant to Request		
<p><b>Strengthening the Framework for the Safe Use and Control of Firearms</b></p> <p>Treasury contact: s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]</p>		
<p>This paper seeks agreement to a suite of proposals to strengthen the regulatory framework for the safe use and control of firearms, set out in the Arms Act 1983.</p>		
<p>The paper seeks agreement to a suite of proposals including a new online firearms registry, amendments to the licensing regime, and the development of new penalties/offences and a new fee structure for licence-holders.</p>	<p>The paper includes high-level estimates of the cost of the proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$43.000 - \$53.000 million in total over the period 2019/20 – 2026/27; and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Support.</b></p>

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Comments	Fiscal implications	Treasury Recommendation
s9(2)(f)(iv)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$9.000 - \$10.900 million per annum from 2027/28 onwards.</li> </ul>	
<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**

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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