

Reference: 20200399



21 December 2020

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 24 November 2020. You requested the following:

*Ministerial Satisfaction with Policy Advice from the Treasury*

### Information being released

Please find enclosed the following document:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	15 July 2020	Treasury Report: Ministerial Satisfaction with Policy Advice from the Treasury	Release in part

I have decided to release the document listed above, subject to information being withheld under the following section of the Official Information Act:

- direct dial phone numbers of officials, under section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Direct dial phone numbers of officials have been redacted under section 9(2)(k) in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing and other scams. This is because information released under the OIA may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including Treasury's website.

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.

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Wellington 6140  
New Zealand  
tel. +64-4-472-2733

<https://treasury.govt.nz>

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

Yours sincerely

Robbie Taylor  
**Team Leader, Office of the Executive**

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**Treasury Report:** Ministerial Satisfaction with Policy Advice from the Treasury

<b>Date:</b>	15 July 2020	<b>Report No:</b>	T2020/2164
		<b>File Number:</b>	AD-1-28

**Action sought**

	<b>Action sought</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Hon Grant Robertson (Minister of Finance)	<p><b>Provide</b> feedback on the quality of Treasury's policy advice using the survey provided.</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> your feedback with Treasury's ELT at your next monthly catch up.</p>	Ahead of your meeting with the Treasury ELT on 20 July 2020
Hon David Parker (Associate Minister of Finance)	<p><b>Provide</b> feedback on the quality of Treasury's policy advice using the survey provided.</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> your feedback with the Chief Executive of the Treasury at your next catch up.</p>	Ahead of your meeting with Secretary Caralee McLiesh on 28 July 2020
Hon Shane Jones (Associate Minister of Finance)	<p><b>Provide</b> feedback on the quality of Treasury's policy advice using the survey provided.</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> your feedback with the Chief Executive of the Treasury at your next catch up.</p>	Ahead of your meeting with Secretary Caralee McLiesh on 3 August 2020
Hon James Shaw (Associate Minister of Finance)	<p><b>Provide</b> feedback on the quality of Treasury's policy advice using the survey provided.</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> your feedback with the Chief Executive of the Treasury at your next catch up.</p>	Ahead of your meeting with Secretary Caralee McLiesh on 22 July 2020

**Contact for telephone discussion (if required)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1st Contact</b>
Kosal Kong	Team Leader (Acting), Office of the Executive	s9(2)(k) (wk)	N/A (mob) ✓
David Bowden	Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive	s9(2)(k) (wk)	s9(2)(k) (mob)

**Minister's Office actions** (if required)

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**Return** the signed report and survey to Treasury.

Note any  
feedback on  
the quality of  
the report

**Enclosure:**      Yes

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## Treasury Report: Ministerial Satisfaction with Policy Advice from the Treasury

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### Executive Summary

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We seek your responses to the 2019/20 ministerial satisfaction survey on the quality of the Treasury's policy advice. The results are required to be included in the Treasury's 2019/20 Annual Report and will be used to continue improving the quality of our policy advice.

### Recommended Action

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We recommend that you:

- a **Complete** the attached survey and return it to the Treasury ahead of discussing your feedback with the Treasury.
- Agree/disagree.*
- b **Discuss** your feedback with the Treasury at the following opportunities:
- Minister of Finance: at your regular meeting with the Treasury's ELT on 20 July 2020.
  - Hon David Parker: at your catch up with the Chief Executive of the Treasury on 28 July 2020
  - Hon Shane Jones: at your catch up with the Chief Executive of the Treasury on 3 August 2020
  - Hon James Shaw: at your catch up with the Chief Executive of the Treasury on 22 July 2020.

David Bowden  
Chief of Staff

Hon Grant Robertson  
Minister of Finance

Hon David Parker  
Associate Minister of Finance

Hon Shane Jones  
Associate Minister of Finance

Hon James Shaw  
Associate Minister of Finance

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## Treasury Report: Ministerial Satisfaction with Policy Advice from the Treasury

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### Purpose of Report

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1. We seek Ministerial feedback on the policy advice, both written and oral, that you have received over the last twelve months (1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020) from the Treasury, through the completion of the attached Ministerial Policy Satisfaction Survey (annex one).

### Comment

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2. The major category within the Treasury Multi-year Multi-category Appropriation is Policy Advice. There are two performance measures for the Policy Advice output expense:
  - Quality of Policy Advice (measured internally via Treasury's Quality of Policy Advice panel), and
  - Ministerial Satisfaction.
3. This second performance measure is captured via a survey of appropriation Ministers and/or Ministers who receive the Treasury's advice. This survey is appended as annex one for your completion. Your responses will also be used to calculate a ministerial satisfaction score to be included in the Treasury's information for the Estimates and Annual Report. This is part of the Treasury's commitment to be transparent and accountable for our policy performance.
4. Last year, we chose to survey the Minister of Finance only (T2019/1627 refers). Last year, the Minister of Finance rated his overall satisfaction with the Treasury's advice at 8 (out of a possible 10).
5. This year, the approach is to survey the Minister of Finance, and current Associate Ministers of Finance. The survey differs from last year's survey, as there is now a standardised survey mandated for use by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) across the public sector. The survey is based on the DPMC-led Policy Quality Framework, and ensures uniformity across the sector in how this measure is approached.
6. Your collective feedback will help the Treasury better serve you in the future. In addition to the ratings you provide, the greatest value in seeking your feedback is in the comments you make to support your assessments.

### Advice over the period 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

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7. Throughout 2019/20, we provided you with advice corresponding to the Policy Advice – Finance appropriation. This appropriation is intended to enable and facilitate Ministerial decision-making focused on improving New Zealand's economic performance, performance of the State Sector, and a stable and sustainable macroeconomic environment. It is limited to the provision of advice (including second opinion advice

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and contributions to policy advice led by other agencies) to support decision making by Ministers on government policy matters relating to Finance.

8. The policy advice you receive should support you to make a fully informed decision, or take the next steps, by answering the following questions:
- Context-setting: Why am I getting this and where does it fit?
  - Analysis: Is the analysis clear, logical and informed by evidence?
  - Advice: Does it engage me and tell the full story?
  - Action: Is it clear who is doing what next?
9. To inform your reflection and completion of the survey, we highlight some of the key areas of advice provided by the Treasury to Ministers over the period below (this list is not exhaustive).
- Advice on Budget 2020, and COVID Rebuild and Recovery Fund
  - Reserve Bank Act Review
  - Overseas Investment Act Review
  - The performance of the Crown's commercial and financial assets
  - Advice on the Living Standards Framework
  - Strategic Tax Policy Advice
  - Establishment of the Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihanga
  - New Zealand Green Investment Fund
  - Response to the economic impact of COVID-19 (e.g. Fiscal Strategy advice, unconventional monetary policy advice)
  - Response to the immediate impacts of COVID-19 (e.g. Economic Scenarios, Wages Subsidy, Business Finance Guarantee, Air New Zealand)
  - Advice on proposed changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and hypothecation of ETS revenue.



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## Next Steps

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10. In addition to the ratings you provide, the greatest value in seeking your feedback is in the comments you make to support your assessments. The Treasury has identified the following opportunities to supplement written feedback from individual Ministers with a discussion of that feedback:
  - Minister of Finance: regular meeting with the Treasury's Executive Leadership Team, 20 July 2020.
  - Hon David Parker: at your catch up with the Chief Executive of the Treasury on 28 July 2020
  - Hon Shane Jones: at your catch up with the Chief Executive of the Treasury on 3 August 2020
  - Hon James Shaw: at your catch up with the Chief Executive of the Treasury on 22 July 2020.
11. The Minister of Finance's responses will be reflected in the Treasury's annual reporting. Your collective responses will enable the Treasury to better understand your needs.

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Annex one: Ministerial Satisfaction Survey

General Satisfaction

1. Thinking about your interactions with the Treasury over the last 12 months (1 July 2019 -30 June 2020), how often did each of the following occur?

	Never	Some of the time	About half the time	Most of the time	Always
I was engaged early enough in the policy process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was engaged in a way that reflects how I like to work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My feedback was taken on board	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was able to access relevant expertise on the issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I received advice that demonstrates an understanding of my priorities and context	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I received advice within the agreed timeframes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Please add any comments or suggestions on how the Treasury could improve the support provided to you as Minister, or examples of what has worked well that should be continued.

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3. Thinking about the policy advice you have received from the Treasury over the last 12 months, how often did the advice:

	Never	Some of the time	About half the time	Most of the time	Always
Clearly explain the problem or opportunity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make relevant connections with other portfolios and address any issues that arise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clearly explain the rationale for intervention	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Demonstrate that appropriate stakeholder engagement strategies were used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Demonstrate how relevant research, evidence, and insights informed the advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide the advice you need to hear and not only what you want to hear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enable a clear and informed decision to be made, or next steps to be taken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consider the longer term implications for New Zealand as applicable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communicate in a clear, concise and coherent manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adequately consider how the policy will be implemented and will work in practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explain how the policy will be monitored or evaluated to check that it works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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4. Please add any comments or suggestions on how the Treasury could improve the quality of its policy advice, or examples of what has worked well that should be continued.

**Overall Performance**

5. I have confidence in the policy advice provided by the Treasury (tick one):

Never	Some of the time	About half the time	Most of the time	Always

6. I have trust in the officials I engage with from the Treasury (tick one):

Never	Some of the time	About half the time	Most of the time	Always

7. What is one thing that the Treasury could do better?

Thank you for your feedback