

Reference: 20210402

17 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 24 August 2021. You requested the following:

- *How much money has been allocated to the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund? (Please specify each time money was allocated and the amount)*
- *Where did the money allocated to the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund come from? (Please specify whether the Government allocated borrowed money to the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund)*
- *How has the allocated money for the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund been spent? (Please provide a full list of projects and initiatives which have used money from the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund, including dates and amount spent)*
- *How much money remains in the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund? (Please specify if any of the remaining funds have already been allocated for future projects or initiatives)*

Information publicly available

The information you have requested can largely be found on publicly available websites. Accordingly, I have refused your request under section 18(d) of the OIA: *the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.*

Balance of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund and list of funding decisions

The Treasury maintains a webpage on funding and expenditure on the COVID-19 pandemic [COVID-19 funding allocation and expenditure \(treasury.govt.nz\)](https://treasury.govt.nz/covid-19/funding). This webpage contains information on how much funding the Government has signalled for the response to and recovery from COVID-19, as well as how much of this funding is yet to be allocated. As at Budget 2021 (20 May 2021), the remaining balance of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) is \$5.1 billion.

The webpage also contains links to various documents that outline the initiatives that CRRF funding has been allocated to. These are:

- A list of announced initiatives funded from the CRRF as part of Budget 2020 (in May 2020) – [Summary of Initiatives in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund \(CRRF\) Foundational Package](#)

- A list of announced initiatives funded through the July 2020 Package – [Summary of Initiatives in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund \(CRRF\) July Package](#)
- A list of initiatives agreed through Budget 2021, including those funded from the CRRF – [Wellbeing Budget 2021: Securing Our Recovery](#) (at pages 53 to 109)
- A list of other initiatives not included in the above documents – [How much is left in the COVID Recovery and Relief Fund? \(OIA-20210151\)](#)

Source of the funding allocated to the CRRF

The latest information on the Government's fiscal position and borrowings can be found in the Treasury's 2021 *Budget Economic and Fiscal Update* [Budget Economic and Fiscal Update 2021 \(treasury.govt.nz\)](#). The Treasury publishes a number of different debt indicators for financial reporting purposes. The Government currently uses net core Crown debt as a key fiscal indicator when communicating its fiscal strategy.

The funding set aside for the CRRF flows through to the level of net core Crown debt of the Government. This fiscal indicator illustrates the overall level of borrowing in any given year that may be required to meet the Government's operating and capital spending intentions, where they cannot be met from cash received by the Crown (e.g. from tax receipts). The borrowing requirements for the Government are done at an aggregate level and are not allocated to specific spending initiatives such as the CRRF.

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

Simon Duncan
Team Leader, Budget Management