

Reference: 20230489

11 December 2023



Dear 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 20 October 2023. You requested the following:

*I'm interested in the PM's Emerging Priorities Fund.
please provide a breakdown of all instances of spending from the fund since inception (you previously provided 2023 YTD, 2022, and 2021).
For the breakdown, along with a brief description of each instance of spending (and other detail as before), please provide the date on which the spending decision was taken (can you please add this for the years already provided).*

In addition, please tell me what has been the size of the contingency in each fiscal year.

On 14 November the Treasury extended the timeframe to decide on this request by 15 working days as your request necessitated a search through a large quantity of information.

Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	November 2023	List of EPC drawdowns since 2011	Release in part
2.	November 2023	EPC balance at the start of each Budget cycle since Budget 2011	Release in full

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, as applicable:

- 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.

Due to the information comes from various documents across the years, we cannot guarantee the list of Emerging Priorities Contingency (EPC) drawdowns are exhaustive, and the balances of EPC at each Budget may be inaccurate.

We do not hold the brief descriptions of each item and the decision dates before 2016. Creating this information would mean having to identify and find each Cabinet paper and summarise each item. Therefore, information on EPC drawdown item descriptions and drawdown dates before 2016 are declined under section 18(f) – that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Due to a lack of information in a consistent format before 2011 on EPC, creating a list for pre-2011 drawdowns would mean having to go through every Cabinet paper decision to collate that information. Therefore, information on EPC drawdowns before 2011 are declined under section 18(f) – that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Please be aware that the EPC balance figures at the start of each Budget cycle are point in time and should not be summed.

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



Stephen Bond
Manager, Budget

EPC balance at each Budget (\$mil across forecast period)

Budget 2011	119.556
Budget 2012	60.000
Budget 2013	31.204
Budget 2014	15.575
Budget 2015	22.647
Budget 2016	33.200
Budget 2017	41.200
Budget 2018	30.110
Budget 2019	30.110
Budget 2020	21.140
Budget 2021	33.823
Budget 2022	26.090
Budget 2023	68.395
Budget 2024	15.587