



TE TAI ŌHANGA
THE TREASURY

Reference: 20240278

28 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 15 April 2024. You requested:

Please provide copies of any internal or external papers produced by the Treasury since January 2018 on the topic of the impact of demographic changes on New Zealand's health system.

I am particularly interested in papers focusing on the impact of New Zealand's ageing population on health expenditure, if these could be singled out from the rest.

On 30 April 2024 the request was clarified to:

copies of formal Treasury advice where the impact of New Zealand's ageing population on health expenditure is a significant component of the advice.

Treasury advice on the impact of New Zealand's ageing population on health expenditure is primarily provided in Budget documents and the Long-term Fiscal Statements.

The Vote Health Budget cost pressure advice considers the impact of demographic change on the cost of the health system, as well as volume and price pressures. Links to cost pressure advice from previous Budgets (*items 1-4 and 9*) are provided in the table below. The 2024 advice (*items 11 – 13*) is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) but will be released as part of the broader Budget 2024 proactive release in due course.

The Treasury produces a Long-term Fiscal Statement every four years. This statement projects future spending in different sectors including health. The assumptions used for these projections include demographic change. Links for the 2021 Long-term Fiscal Statement and its associated background papers (*items 5 - 8*) are also provided below.

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<https://treasury.govt.nz>

Information publicly available

The following information is covered by your request and is or will soon be publicly available on the Treasury website:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	15 March 2018	Treasury Report T2018/641: Further advice on Vote Health Budget Package.	Treasury Report T2018/641: Further Advice on Vote Health Budget 2018 Package - 15 March 2018 - Budget 2018 Information Release
2.	30 October 2018	Treasury Report T2018/2876: Bilateral Discussion: Minister of Finance and Minister of Health.	Treasury Report T2018/2876: Bilateral Discussion: Minister of Finance and Minister of Health - August 2019 - Budget 2019 Proactive Information Release
3.	15 March 2019	Treasury Report T2019/447: Vote Health Bilateral Advice	Treasury Report T2019/447: Vote Health Bilateral Advice - August 2019 - Budget 2019 Proactive Information Release
4.	30 July 2021	Joint Report T2021/1579: Health Reform - A Multi-Year Approach to Health Funding	Joint Report T2021/1579: Joint Report: Health Reform - A Multi-Year Approach to Health Funding - 30 July 2021 - Budget 2022 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz)
5.	18 June 2021	Treasury Report T2021/1503: Publishing He Tirohanga Mokopuna 2021	www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-04/oia-20210390.pdf
6.	29 September 2021	He Tirohanga Mokopuna Publication	www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/strategies-and-plans/long-term-fiscal-position/he-tirohanga-mokopuna
7.	29 September 2021	Background Paper for the 2021 Statement of Long-term Fiscal Position: Demographic, Economic and Fiscal Assumptions and Logic in the 2021 Long-term Fiscal Model.	Background Paper for the 2021 Statement on the Long-term Fiscal Position: Demographic, Economic and Fiscal Assumptions and Logic in the 2021 Long-term Fiscal Model The Treasury New Zealand
8.	29 September 2021	Background Paper for the 2021 Statement on the Long-term Fiscal Position: The Economic Impacts of	Background Paper for the 2021 Statement on the Long-term Fiscal Position: The Economic

		an Ageing Population in New Zealand	Impacts of an Ageing Population in New Zealand The Treasury New Zealand
9.	10 February 2022	Treasury Report T2022/215: Budget 2022 Health Bilateral: Emerging Health Transitional Package.	Treasury Report T2022/215: Budget 2022 Health Bilateral: Emerging Health Transitional Package - 10 February 2022 - Budget 2022 Information Release
10.	12 January 2024	Introductory briefing on Vote Health to Min Reti 12 Jan 2024	Will soon be available at Responses to Official Information Act requests The Treasury New Zealand

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act:

- the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

Information to be withheld

There are additional documents covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under the following section of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
11.	13 December 2023	Treasury Report T2023/2003: Vote Health Budget 2024 Settings.	Withhold in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
12.	3 March 2023	Briefing T2023/307 – Budget 2024 – Proposed health cost pressure planning parameters	Withhold in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
13.	9 March 2024	Treasury Report T2024/517: Budget 2024 Bilateral: Hon Dr Shane Reti (Health)	Withhold in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)

We will also publish this advice as part of the Budget 2024 proactive release in due course at [Budget information releases | The Treasury New Zealand](#).

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) 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

Jess Hewat
Manager, Health and ACC