

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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Information Withheld

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified.

Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to sections of the Act under which information has been withheld:

- [1] 6(a) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 6(b)(i) - to avoid prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- [4] 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [7] 6(e)(ii) - to prevent serious damage to the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the regulation of banking or credit
- [12] 7(a)(i) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of the Cook Islands
- [13] 7(a)(ii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of Niue
- [14] 7(a)(iii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of Tokelau
- [15] 7(a)(iv) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the Ross Dependency
- [23] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [25] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [27] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest

- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [33] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [34] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [35] 9(2)(g)(ii) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment;
- [36] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [37] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [39] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [40] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment
- [41] 18(d) - information requested is or will soon be publicly available

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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Minute of Decision

Vote: Education Review Office

Appropriation Administrator: Education Review Office

Title: Early Childhood Education Regulation - Information Technology System Replacement - Tagged Contingency

Description: This initiative provides funding in a tagged contingency to replace the information technology system which will provide early learning provider regulatory services.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)
[37]	

Additional Recommendations

- 2 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education (joint Ministers) to approve the drawdown of the above tagged contingency, subject to the completion and joint Ministers' approval of an Approval to Deliver;
- 3 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 31 March 2027.

Vote: Education Review Office

Appropriation Administrator: Education Review Office

Title: Hostels and Private Schools - Increasing Child Safety

Description: This initiative provides funding for robust regulatory oversight for hostels and private schools. This will provide a risk-based and responsive regulatory service to mitigate child safety risk in these education settings.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Review, Evaluate, Monitor and Assure the Quality of Education Provision and Deliver Regulatory Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Total Operating	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000

Vote: Education Review Office

Appropriation Administrator: Education Review Office

Title: Schools of Concern - Addressing Achievement, Attendance, and Child Safety

Description: This initiative provides funding to establish a Schools of Concern Programme. This will provide for bespoke, independent, and more frequent reviews by specialist reviewers of schools that disproportionately contribute to poor achievement and attendance rates. Reviews will provide quick identification of issues and high-quality, actionable recommendations designed to address key problems and improve school and student outcomes.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Review, Evaluate, Monitor and Assure the Quality of Education Provision and Deliver Regulatory Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
Total Operating	-	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000