

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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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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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Budget 2026 Package: Vote Internal Affairs

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2026 Budget package, as listed in the summary tables below and detailed in the attached initiative documents:

Summary of Initiatives:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17086	2026 General Election - Transition and Support Costs	-	3.976	-	-	-
17144	Baseline Savings - Department of Internal Affairs	(3.021)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(5.516)
17167	Baseline Savings - Ministry for Ethnic Communities	-	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)
17087	Common Operating Picture: Strengthening the Emergency Management Sector - Operational Systems (EMS-OS)	-	3.172	4.672	1.898	-
17279	Reducing the Risk of Online Harm to Children - Phase One	-	6.000	7.750	8.500	8.500
17569	Funding for Unavoidable Fuel Cost Pressures - Fire and Emergency New Zealand	1.214	2.278	-	-	-
Total Operating		(1.807)	10.640	7.636	5.612	2.707

Summary of Contingency Initiatives:**Operating Contingency**

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17596	2026 General Election - Transition and Support Costs - Tagged Contingency	-	6.339	-	-	-
17597	Common Operating Picture: Strengthening the Emergency Management Sector - Operational Systems (EMS-OS) - Tagged Contingency	[38]				
Total Operating						

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: 2026 General Election - Transition and Support Costs

Description: This initiative provides time-limited funding for non-discretionary costs incurred in preparing for and delivering the transition to the incoming 55th Executive following the 2026 General Election.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	3.976	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	3.976	-	-	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Services Supporting the Executive (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Support Services to Members of the Executive (funded by revenue Crown)	-	3.976	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Services Supporting the Executive (MCA)	-	3.976	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	3.976	-	-	-

Additional Recommendation

2 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17596 in Vote Internal Affairs;

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: 2026 General Election - Transition and Support Costs - Tagged Contingency

Description: This initiative provides time-limited funding in a tagged contingency for non-discretionary costs that exceed a minimum-change scenario that may be incurred in preparing for and delivering the transition to the incoming 55th Executive following the 2026 General Election.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	-	6.339	-	-	-
Capital Contingency	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	6.339	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 3 **agreed** to establish an operating tagged contingency ‘*2026 General Election - Transition and Support*’;
- 4 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services jointly to draw down the tagged operating contingency funding, subject to their satisfaction with a detailed outline of the additional costs incurred for delivering the transition to the 55th Executive;
- 5 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17086 in Vote Internal Affairs;
- 6 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 31 March 2027;

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: Baseline Savings - Department of Internal Affairs

Description: This savings initiative delivers on the baseline reduction target for the Department of Internal Affairs and will be achieved through a consolidation of corporate services and streamlining the organisational structure.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(3.021)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(5.516)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(3.021)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(5.516)

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Civic Information Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Managing and Accessing Identity Information (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.145)	(0.145)	(0.145)	(0.649)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Civic Information Services (MCA)	-	(0.145)	(0.145)	(0.145)	(0.649)
Community Development and Funding Schemes (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Administration of Grants (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.050)	(0.050)	(0.050)	(0.050)
Community Development and Engagement Advice (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.091)	(0.091)	(0.091)	(0.091)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Community Development and Funding Schemes (MCA)	-	(0.141)	(0.141)	(0.141)	(0.141)
National Archival and Library Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Knowledge and Information Services (funded by revenue Crown)	(0.500)	(2.175)	(2.175)	(2.175)	(2.175)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: National Archival and Library Services (MCA)	(0.500)	(2.175)	(2.175)	(2.175)	(2.175)

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Policy and Related Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Crown Entity Monitoring (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)
Policy and Related Services - Community and Voluntary Sector (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.028)
Policy and Related Services - Digitising Government (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)	(0.039)
Policy and Related Services - Internal Affairs (funded by revenue Crown)	(0.800)	(0.368)	(0.368)	(0.368)	(0.368)
Policy and Related Services - Ministerial Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)
Policy and Related Services - Racing (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policy and Related Services (MCA)	(0.800)	(0.474)	(0.474)	(0.474)	(0.474)
Regulatory Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Charities Regulation (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.124)	(0.124)	(0.124)	(0.124)
Regulatory Services (funded by revenue Crown)	(0.864)	(0.522)	(0.522)	(0.522)	(1.025)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Regulatory Services (MCA)	(0.864)	(0.646)	(0.646)	(0.646)	(1.149)
Services Supporting the Executive (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Coordination of Official Visits and Events (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.143)	(0.143)	(0.143)	(0.143)
Support Services to Members of the Executive (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.730)	(0.730)	(0.730)	(0.730)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Services Supporting the Executive (MCA)	-	(0.873)	(0.873)	(0.873)	(0.873)

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Support for Statutory and Other Bodies (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Commissions of Inquiry and Similar Bodies (funded by revenue Crown)	(0.857)	(0.036)	(0.036)	(0.036)	(0.036)
Support for Grant Funding Bodies - Community and Voluntary Sector (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)
Support for Grant Funding Bodies - Internal Affairs (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.012)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Support for Statutory and Other Bodies (MCA)	(0.857)	(0.055)	(0.055)	(0.055)	(0.055)
Total Operating	(3.021)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(4.509)	(5.516)

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: Baseline Savings - Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Description: This savings initiative delivers on the baseline reduction target for the Department of Internal Affairs and will be achieved via a reduction in corporate costs, principally through negotiated reductions in departmental agency support.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Supporting Ethnic Communities (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Advisory and Information Services to assist Ethnic Communities (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.177)	(0.177)	(0.177)	(0.177)
Policy and Related Services - Ethnic Communities (funded by revenue Crown)	-	(0.100)	(0.100)	(0.100)	(0.100)
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Supporting Ethnic Communities (MCA)	-	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)
Total Operating	-	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)	(0.277)

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: Common Operating Picture: Strengthening the Emergency Management Sector - Operational Systems (EMS-OS)

Description: This initiative provides time-limiting funding for specialist fixed-term resource to support the delivery of the EMS-OS programme to improve the effectiveness of emergency response and recovery across New Zealand.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	3.172	4.672	1.898	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	3.172	4.672	1.898	-

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Emergency Management Leadership and Support (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Advice and Support for Emergency Risk Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery (funded by revenue Crown)	-	3.172	4.672	1.898	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Emergency Management Leadership and Support (MCA)	-	3.172	4.672	1.898	-
Total Operating	-	3.172	4.672	1.898	-

Additional Recommendation

7 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17597 in Vote Internal Affairs;

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: Common Operating Picture: Strengthening the Emergency Management Sector - Operational Systems (EMS-OS) - Tagged Contingency

Description: This initiative provides funding in a tagged contingency to procure and deliver modern operational systems to improve the effectiveness of emergency response and recovery across New Zealand. It will enable better decision-making through improved situational awareness, strengthen coordination across agencies, and support timely public action during emergencies. The initiative provides a real-time intelligence platform, operational tools for Coordinators, and an upgraded National Warning System, replacing fragmented legacy systems and reducing the risk of communication and coordination failures.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears

[38]

Additional Recommendations

- 8 **noted** that in November 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee authorised the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery jointly to approve Approval to Deliver plans for the EMS-OS programme [EXP-25-MIN-0102];
- 9 **agreed** to establish an operating tagged contingency '*Common Operating Picture: Strengthening Emergency Management Sector - Operational Systems (EMS-OS)*';
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery jointly to draw down the above tagged contingency funding, subject to the receipt of satisfactory Approval to Deliver plans for the EMS-OS programme;
- 11 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17087 in Vote Internal Affairs;
- 12 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 31 March 2027.

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: Reducing the Risk of Online Harm to Children - Phase One

Description: [33]

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	6.000	7.750	8.500	8.500
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	6.000	7.750	8.500	8.500

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

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Regulatory Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Regulatory Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	6.000	7.750	8.500	8.500
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Regulatory Services (MCA)	-	6.000	7.750	8.500	8.500
Total Operating	-	6.000	7.750	8.500	8.500

Vote: Internal Affairs

Appropriation Administrator: Department of Internal Affairs

Title: Funding for Unavoidable Fuel Cost Pressures - Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Description: This initiative provides time-limited funding to address unavoidable increases in fuel costs associated with Fire and Emergency New Zealand's critical operational activities.

Appropriation Changes

	Sm - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	1.214	2.278	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1.214	2.278	-	-	-

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

	Sm - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Miscellaneous Grants - Internal Affairs	1.214	2.278	-	-	-
Total Operating	1.214	2.278	-	-	-