

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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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 Justice (FVSV)

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence

- 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 Initiative:

Operating Initiative (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17555	Project Whetū Closure - Return of Underspend	(0.605)	-	-	-	-
Total Operating		(0.605)	-	-	-	-

Summary of Contingency Initiative:

Operating Contingency

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17623	Project Whetū Closure - Return of Tagged Operating Contingency	-	(4.591)	-	-	-
Total Operating		-	(4.591)	-	-	-

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Justice

Appropriation Administrator: Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence

Title: Project Whetū Closure - Return of Underspend

Description: This initiative returns unspent funding from Project Whetū in 2025/26. The funding is not required because the replacement of the New Zealand Police Family Safety System with a new technology platform is not progressing. The non-technology elements of the Target Operating Model for Multi-Agency Responses are progressing within agency baselines.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(0.605)	-	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(0.605)	-	-	-	-

* 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:					
Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence (funded by revenue Crown)	(0.605)	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	(0.605)	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendation

2 **noted** this initiative relates to Initiative 17623 in Vote Justice;

Vote: Justice

Appropriation Administrator: Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence

Title: Project Whetū Closure - Return of Tagged Operating Contingency

Description: This initiative returns funding held in tagged contingency for Project Whetū. The funding is not required because the replacement of the New Zealand Police Family Safety System with a new technology platform is not progressing. The non-technology elements of the Target Operating Model for Multi-Agency Responses are progressing within agency baselines.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	-	(4.591)	-	-	-
Total	-	(4.591)	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 3 **agreed** to discontinue the technology investment component of Project Whetū;
- 4 **agreed** to progress implementation of the non-technological elements of the Target Operating Model for Multi-Agency Responses within agency baselines;
- 5 **noted** that, following the adjustment detailed above, the tagged operating contingency described above is now exhausted and therefore closed;
- 6 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17555 in Vote Justice.