

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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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 Police

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

- 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
17102	Community Safety Initiatives - Additional Funding	-	1.964	2.038	2.114	2.189
17434	New Zealand Police - Increased Funding for Frontline Service Delivery	(15.000)	15.000	49.532	-	-
17105	Stafford v Attorney-General - Implications for New Zealand Police	0.071	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133
17561	New Zealand Police Fuel Cost Pressures	1.793	2.217	-	-	-
17625	Firearms Reform - Reprioritisation for ICT Modernisation	[38]				
Total Operating						

Summary of contingency initiatives:

Operating Contingency

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17100	Replacement of New Zealand Police's Automated Biometric Information System - Tagged Contingency	[38]				

[38]

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17101	Police Property Upgrade Programme - Greymouth and Whanganui - Tagged Contingency	[38]				
17627	Firearms Reform -Tagged Contingency for ICT Modernisation					
Total Operating						

* Note funding in outyears has a different funding profile in accordance with the attached initiative document.

Capital Contingency

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17100	Replacement of New Zealand Police's Automated Biometric Information System - Tagged Contingency	[38]				
17101	Police Property Upgrade Programme - Greymouth and Whanganui - Tagged Contingency					
Total Capital						

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Police

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

Title: Replacement of New Zealand Police's Automated Biometric Information System - Tagged Contingency

Description: This initiative provides funding to replace Police's Automated Biometric Identification System, which is reaching end-of-life. Biometric identification is fundamental to Police delivering its legislated functions, with fingerprints being the primary biometric to quickly identify an individual and to link an identity to other biometrics, specific locations, incidents, and criminal history.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	- [38]				
Capital Contingency	-				
Total	-				

Additional Recommendations

- 2 **noted** that in November 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:
 - 2.1 endorsed the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) Replacement Detailed Business Case, and its preferred option (Option 4, replace the ABIS with an extensible, enduring technology platform that lifts and future-proofs Police's biometric identification capability and interoperability);
 - 2.2 directed officials, subject to Budget 2026 decisions, to commence preparations to engage the market with a Request for Proposal to procure and implement the replacement Automated Biometric Identification System;

[EXP-25-MIN-0101]
- 3 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Police to approve an Approval to Deliver business case for this investment;
- 4 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Police jointly to draw down the tagged contingency upon their satisfaction and approval of the Approval to Deliver business case;
- 5 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 31 March 2027;

Vote: Police

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

Title: Community Safety Initiatives - Additional Funding

Description: This initiative provides funding for Pasifika Wardens, Neighbourhood Support New Zealand, and Community Patrols New Zealand to enable these organisations to keep New Zealand communities safe and support New Zealand Police to deliver on their statutory functions.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	1.964	2.038	2.114	2.189
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1.964	2.038	2.114	2.189

* 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:					
Policing Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Crime Prevention (funded by revenue Crown)	-	1.964	2.038	2.114	2.189
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policing Services (MCA)	-	1.964	2.038	2.114	2.189
Total Operating	-	1.964	2.038	2.114	2.189

Vote: Police

Appropriation New Zealand Police
Administrator:

[38]

Vote: Police

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

Title: Firearms Reform - Reprioritisation for ICT Modernisation

Description: This initiative reprioritises existing ICT project funding to enable the establishment of a tagged contingency for modernisation of the ICT systems underpinning firearms licencing, case management, and registration to improve public safety and enhance organisational efficiency.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	[38]			-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-				-
No Impact	-				-
Total	-				-

* 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:		[38]			
Arms Safety and Control (funded by revenue Crown)	-				-
Total Operating	-				-

Additional Recommendation

9 **noted** that this initiative relates to initiative 17627 in Vote Police;

Vote: Police

Appropriation New Zealand Police
Administrator:

Title: Firearms Reform - Tagged Contingency for ICT Modernisation

Description: This initiative establishes a tagged operating contingency from reprioritised ICT baseline funding to enable the modernisation of the ICT systems underpinning firearms licencing, case management, and registration to improve public safety and enhance organisational efficiency.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	- [38]				-
Capital Contingency	-				-
Total	-				-

Additional Recommendations

10 **noted** that in April 2026, the Cabinet Business Committee:

10.1 approved in-principle the Single Stage Business Case and preferred ICT option for the Arms System, subject to funding being made available and adoption of recommendations following Gateway engagement, and subsequent final approval by the Minister of Finance, Associate Minister of Justice (Hon Nicole McKee), and Minister of Police;

10.2 directed the Ministry of Justice and New Zealand Police to move to the next stage of investment planning and complete an Approval to Deliver ICT Business Case;

[CBC-26-MIN-0019]

11 **noted** that the tagged operating contingency established above is associated with Vote Justice;

12 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17625 in Vote Police;

13 **authorised** the Minister of Finance, Associate Minister of Justice (Hon Nicole McKee), and Minister of Police jointly to draw down the tagged operating contingency above, subject to their satisfaction with the final Single Stage Business Case following Gateway engagement, and an Approval to Deliver Business Case;

14 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 31 March 2027;

Vote: Police

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

Title: New Zealand Police Fuel Cost Pressures

Description: This initiative funds the increased cost of fuel required to maintain existing Police operational activity. It enables continued frontline, maritime, aviation and essential contracted operations that are facing fuel price increases.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	1.793	2.217	-	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1.793	2.217	-	-	-

* 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:					
Policing Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Crime Prevention (funded by revenue Crown)	0.443	0.548	-	-	-
Investigations and Case Resolution (funded by revenue Crown)	0.707	0.873	-	-	-
Policy Advice and Ministerial Services (funded by revenue Crown)	0.005	0.007	-	-	-
Primary Response Management (funded by revenue Crown)	0.638	0.789	-	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policing Services (MCA)	1.793	2.217	-	-	-
Total Operating	1.793	2.217	-	-	-

Vote: Police

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

Title: Police Property Upgrade Programme - Greymouth and Whanganui - Tagged Contingency

Description: This initiative funds the replacement and remediation of Greymouth Station and Custody facility, and Whanganui Station. These two properties have been identified as critical properties within the Police property portfolio given their current condition, criticality of the size and impact on operations.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Operating Contingency	-	[38]			
Capital Contingency	-				
Total	-				

	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	[38]				
Capital Contingency					
Total					

Additional Recommendations

- 15 **noted** that in March 2026, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:
 - 15.1 endorsed, subject to sufficient funding being made available through future budget processes, the Phase 1A Detailed Business Case preferred option which includes five projects with whole of life [38]
 - 15.2 directed Police to move to the next stage of investment planning and complete Approval to Deliver business case(s), subject to the approval of a Budget 2026 initiative;

[EXP-26-MIN-0012]
- 16 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Police to approve any Approval to Deliver business case(s) for this investment;
- 17 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Police jointly to draw down the tagged operating contingency, upon their satisfaction and approval of the Approval to Deliver business case(s);
- 18 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 31 March 2027;

Vote: Police

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

Title: New Zealand Police - Increased Funding for Frontline Service Delivery

Description: This initiative provides funding to New Zealand Police to maintain existing frontline and operational delivery. This funding is time-limited to allow Police to carry out further work on its performance and fiscal sustainability and provide options to the Government to inform future funding requirements, and is partially offset by one-off underspends in 2025/26.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	(15.000)	15.000	49.532	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	(15.000)	15.000	49.532	-	-

* 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:					
Policing Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Crime Prevention (funded by revenue Crown)	(3.705)	3.705	12.234	-	-
Investigations and Case Resolution (funded by revenue Crown)	(5.910)	5.910	19.516	-	-
Policy Advice and Ministerial Services (funded by revenue Crown)	(0.045)	0.045	0.149	-	-
Primary Response Management (funded by revenue Crown)	(5.340)	5.340	17.633	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policing Services (MCA)	(15.000)	15.000	49.532	-	-
Total Operating	(15.000)	15.000	49.532	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- 19 **noted** that the above changes to appropriations include one-off underspends in 2025/26 of \$15.000 million, which are proposed to be used to offset the additional funding required in 2026/27;
- 20 **noted** that in addition to the above underspend, Police is anticipating a departmental output expense underspend in 2025/26 of up to another \$15.000 million;

- 21 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Police jointly to increase departmental output expense appropriations for 2026/27 in Vote Police by up to \$15.000 million, following completion of the 2025/26 audited financial statements, with no impact on the operating balance and core Crown debt across the forecast period;
- 22 **noted** that the additional Crown funding provided in this initiative is time-limited to allow Police to develop a capability plan which will inform future policy, investment, and funding decisions by the Government to address Police's medium to long term financial sustainability;
- 23 **directed** Police to:
- 23.1 provide a report to the Ministers of Finance and Police by August 2026 on the work referred to in paragraph 22, and a provide a further report in early 2027 with a roadmap for decisions on a capability plan;
 - 23.2 engage closely with other justice sector agencies and the Treasury on this work programme to ensure a range of perspectives is considered.

Vote: Police

Appropriation Administrator: New Zealand Police

Title: Stafford v Attorney-General - Implications for New Zealand Police

Description: This initiative provides funding to address implementation costs arising from the resolution agreement for the Stafford v Attorney-General High Court case.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	0.071	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.071	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133

* 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:					
Policing Services (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Crime Prevention (funded by revenue Crown)	0.020	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037
Investigations and Case Resolution (funded by revenue Crown)	0.029	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054
Policy Advice and Ministerial Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Primary Response Management (funded by revenue Crown)	0.022	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Policing Services (MCA)	0.071	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133
Total Operating	0.071	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133