



Job Title	Chief Economist
Band	21
Location	Wellington
Last reviewed	August 2024
Team	2 direct reports
Delegations	Level 3

About the Ministry

The Ministry for Regulation (the Ministry) is a small government agency with a big job to do. The Ministry works to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regulation and regulatory systems for New Zealanders by:

- Ensuring the quality of new regulation
- Improving the functioning of existing regulatory systems
- Raising capability of those who design and operate regulatory systems
- Providing continuous and enduring improvement of the regulatory management system.

Our values



We make a difference
Ka whakaaweawe tātou



We empower
Ka whakamana tātou



We are courageous
Ka whakamanawanui tātou



We put people at the centre
Ka manaaki tātou

About the role

The Chief Economist plays a crucial role in the work of the Ministry by providing informed economic perspectives and advice. They lead and direct the Ministry's economic analysis. Leading a small team, this role ensures that high-quality regulatory economic analysis and advice are central to the Ministry's work. Additionally, the Chief Economist provides strategic leadership both across the Ministry and to other agencies across NZ Government.



About you

- A PhD or master's degree in economics
- Extensive experience in regulatory economics, including experience of the relationship between law and economics
- A broad base of regulatory economic knowledge, with the ability to apply regulatory economic principles and insights across a wide range of domains, and the willingness to proactively contribute across the Ministry's functions
- Ability to critically evaluate economic literature and quantitative evidence, especially relating to policy design and the impact of economics, law, and regulation on productivity, competition, and economic growth
- Proficiency in analysing complex data and using econometric models and a sound understanding of the practice of conducting microeconomic research
- Skill in negotiating and influencing policy decision makers
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain productive relationships within and across organisations
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to clearly and persuasively communicate complex economic concepts and findings to non-economists, including policy professionals, lawyers, stakeholders, and leadership
- Demonstrated experience in providing guidance, mentorship, and oversight

Key Accountabilities

Regulatory Economic Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a first-class regulatory economics perspective to the work of the Ministry and advice to the Minister for Regulation• Filter and integrate knowledge from other agencies and external sources (including international) to ensure that the Ministry's recommendations are informed by a broad and nuanced understanding of regulatory trends and impacts• Oversee, review, and promote detailed cost-benefit analyses to evaluate the economic implications of regulatory changes and policy proposals, ensuring thorough and accurate assessments. Act as a quality assurance resource, providing guidance and support to enhance the analytical skills of team members in performing cost-benefit analyses.• Evaluate and interpret research findings• Develop and oversee the long-term strategy for delivering high quality regulatory economic analysis to the Ministry and Minister, ensuring that our work is consistently informed by thorough and rigorous economic insights• Act as the escalation point for economic advice for the Policy, and Reviews and System Capability business groups regarding significant risks, issues, and challenges
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Planning and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be a thought leader on regulatory economic issues, representing the Ministry as required in public forums, media, and industry events• Lead the long-term strategy, approach, and work planning for the economics function, including prioritisation and accountability for delivering economic insights and analysis to the senior leadership team and the Minister• Provide leadership, quality assurance, oversight, and accountability for the successful execution of the team's work programme• Develop an understanding of all key operational areas within the Ministry, provide expert advice, and make significant contributions to collective decision-making processes related to your areas of responsibility and expertise• Lead by example to embed the desired organisational culture, values, and behaviours
Relationship Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drive and foster effective engagement between crucial external organisations and contacts and the Ministry by identifying, cultivating, and maintaining an appropriate network of contacts• Work closely with the managers across the Ministry to identify and oversee critical relationships at all levels and mitigate any identified risks effectively• Serve as an effective role model for connecting, collaborating, and sharing knowledge, while fostering trusted and productive working relationships across the Ministry

The duties and responsibilities in this document are not exhaustive. The incumbent may be required to perform other work which is consistent with the nature of the role.

Key relationships

Internal

- Secretary and Chief Executive - Ministry for Regulation
- Members of the Senior Leadership team
- Managers and staff across the Ministry

External

- The Minister for Regulation and the Minister's office
- Other central agencies
- Senior executives and staff in other government departments
- Key stakeholders/industry groups
- Regulatory organisations across the public sector



Health, Safety and Wellbeing

The Ministry for Regulation is committed to providing a healthy and safe work environment and safe management practices for all employees. Employees are expected to share this commitment as outlined in the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 by taking all practicable steps to ensure their safety at work and that no action or inaction causes harm to others while at work.

Changes to Position Description

Positions in the Ministry may change over time as the organisation evolves and priorities change. Job descriptions may be updated accordingly to reflect those changes in consultation with you.