



28 March 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Official information request

Our ref: R00862

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

I refer to your request for information, which was contained within your submission on the Ministry for Regulation discussion document “*Have your say on the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill.*”

You requested the following:

“In response to the statement by Minister Seymour on page 3 of the discussion document that “Most of New Zealand's problems can be traced to poor productivity, and poor productivity can be traced to poor regulations”, I encourage the Minister to release the evidence in support of this representation.”

While you submitted your views pertaining to the discussion document on 5 January 2025 through the Ministry’s RSBconsultation@regulation.govt.nz, a mailbox exclusively dedicated to receiving submissions, the Ministerial Services team¹ only became aware of your information request embedded in your submission during the analysis process. While best efforts were made during the submission process to identify Official Information Act (OIA) requests, due to the high volume of submissions we received your request was only identified on 28 February 2025. We have taken the date when the Ministry was made aware of your OIA as the date when we received your information request for purposes of the Official Information Act 1982. This is in contrast to the date when your email was received in the RSBconsultation mailbox.²

¹ The Ministerial Services team in the Ministry for Regulation is responsible for managing and responding to requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

² This is consistent with section 214(b) of the Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017, which dictates the date when an electronic communication is taken to be received. Where an agency has designated a particular information system for a particular purpose, such as an email address specifically for submissions on a bill, it would be reasonable to take the date an OIA is received through this means as the date it comes to the attention of the agency (rather than when the email entered the system).

We note that your information request relates to a statement made by the Minister for Regulation in the foreword of the discussion document. However, in this letter, we have provided some information that we, the Ministry for Regulation, are aware of that relate to your request, and in accordance with the OIA .

Response

Link between poor productivity and poor regulations

The New Zealand Productivity Commission (Commission) was previously the Government's key advisor on improving productivity to support the well-being of New Zealanders. The Commission was disestablished in February 2024. While the Ministry for Regulation (Ministry) has not replaced the Commission, both share a similar interest in evidence-based economic analysis and improving New Zealand's economic productivity.

We refer you to the Commission's report published in June 2014, [*Regulatory institutions and practices*](#)³. It is the Commission's final report following an inquiry into New Zealand's regulatory infrastructure and how it can be optimised to deliver better outcomes.

Please see the following sections of the document:

- Page 15: About this Inquiry
- Page 35: Why getting regulation right is important.

In addition, the Ministry prepared an [*Interim Regulatory Impact Statement*](#)⁴ (RIS) for the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill (*Interim Regulatory Statement: Legislating to improve transparency of the quality of regulation*), which refers broadly to the role that quality regulation has in improving New Zealand's productivity. Please see the following sections of the proactively released interim RIS:

- Page 1: Executive summary
- Pages 12-17: What is the policy problem or opportunity? What objectives are sought in relation to the policy problem?

Both documents cited above are available on our website.

Comparison of New Zealand with other economies

New Zealand is one of 38 member-countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([*OECD*](#)⁵), an inter-governmental organisation that serves as a forum and knowledge hub for data, analysis and best practices in public policy (including economic and social policy issues). The OECD has made publicly available, various reports on New Zealand's performance compared to other economies in the OECD.

³ <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/support-for-regulators/resources-for-regulators/regulatory-institutions-and-practices/>

⁴ <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/assets/RIS-Documents/Interim-Regulatory-Impact-Statement-Legislating-to-improve-transparency-of-the-quality-of-regulation-v2.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/en/countries/new-zealand.html>

While this information is not held by the Ministry, it may interest you to read though the latest [OECD Product Market Regulation \(PMR\) indicators](https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/product-market-regulation.html)⁶, which assess the alignment of a country's regulatory framework with internationally-accepted best practices. The New Zealand-specific comparison is available at: [New Zealand PMR country note](https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/topics/policy-sub-issues/product-market-regulation/NewZealand_PMRcountrynote.pdf)⁷.

Further information

We acknowledge your interest in our work on the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill (Bill). In December 2024, we proactively released a significant amount of information on the Ministry's website for transparency and to support the submission process on the discussion document. A total of 25 documents relating to our work and advice on the proposed Bill is listed in **Annex A** of this response and can be accessed through the webpage: [Our publications | Ministry for Regulation](https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/)⁸.

We have recently updated the information on our website relating to our work on the Bill, including the next steps for considering the submissions we received. We will continue to update our website content as our work progresses. For more information, please see [The Regulatory Standards Bill | Ministry for Regulation](https://www.regulation.govt.nz/our-work/regulatory-standards-bill/)⁹.

Right of review

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please contact hello@regulation.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we may publish this response (with your details removed) on the Ministry for Regulation website.

Ngā mihi

s 9(2)(a)



Aisling Risdon

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Ministry for Regulation

⁶ <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/product-market-regulation.html>

⁷ https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/topics/policy-sub-issues/product-market-regulation/NewZealand_PMRcountrynote.pdf

⁸ <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/>

⁹ <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/our-work/regulatory-standards-bill/>

Annex A

The proactively released documents relating to the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill, and available on our website are listed as follows:

	Date	Reference	Title
1.	15/12/2023	T2023/2064	Regulatory Standards Bill – Initial Advice and Options
2.	23/01/2024	nil	Regulatory Standards Bill: Slides for Meeting with Minister for Regulation on 23rd January
3.	05/02/2023	T2024/171	Regulatory Standards Bill – 100 Day Cabinet report-back
4.	19/02/2024	T2024/375	Agency consultation on draft Regulatory Standards Bill Cabinet paper
5.	Undated	nil	Cabinet Paper: Improving the Quality of New Zealand's Regulation: Report Back on a New Regulatory Standards Bill
6.	27/02/2024	EXP-24-MIN-0003	Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee Minute of Decision - Improving the Quality of New Zealand's Regulation: Report Back on a New Regulatory Standards Bill
7.	22/03/2024	T2024/763	Regulatory Standards Bill: Possible amendments
8.	12/04/2024	T2024/1020	Current State Regulatory Processes
9.	03/05/2024	2024-016	Regulatory Standards Bill: Possible approaches to embedding regulatory responsibility principles
10.	17/05/2024	2024-015	Possible approaches to public recourse mechanisms
11.	17/05/2024	2024-026	Current information gathering and inquiry powers
12.	24/05/2024	2024-041	Statutory powers for Ministry for Regulation reviews
13.	14/06/2024	2024-038	Options for a taking forward a Regulatory Standards Bill
14.	05/07/2024	2024-063	Further advice on a preferred option for a Regulatory Standards Bill
15.	05/07/2024	2024-060	Decision-making and implementation mechanisms for regulatory reviews
16.	26/07/2024	MFR2024-077	Alternative approach to providing for regulatory responsibility principles
17.	06/08/2024	MFR2024-092	Progressing the Regulatory Standards Bill
18.	14/08/2024	MFR2024-095	Proposed revisions to the principles in the 2021 Regulatory Standards Bill
19.	23/08/2024	MFR2024-078	Regulatory Standards Bill: Regulatory Reviews Statutory Framework
20.	13/09/2024	MFR2024-064	Agreeing to a consultation approach on the Regulatory Standards Bill
21.	13/09/2024	2024-103	The Regulatory Standards Bill and the Treaty of Waitangi
22.	13/09/2024	MFR2024-104	Further advice on the components of a Regulatory Standards Bill
23.	11/10/2024	MFR2024-130	Draft Regulatory Standards Bill Cabinet paper and discussion document for Ministerial consultation
24.	25/10/2024	MFR2024-145	Feedback from departmental consultation on the draft Regulatory Standards Bill Cabinet paper and discussion document
25.	Undated	nil	Information Release: Cabinet Paper CAB-24-SUB-0437 Approval to consult on a proposed approach to the Regulatory Standards Bill